■ Saturday Special / A3-1
Zhang Ziyi stars in seven new films

■ Metro / A23
7 suspected robbers dead in Laguna shootout

■ Super / C4
Gretchen Barretto tells all about her feud with Imelda Cojuangco

■ World / A11
Pope to beatify Mel Gibson's mystic muse

■ News / A2
Bishop links 4 top national officials to jueteng

■ Business / B1
Ecozone investments surge 90% to P30.4B

Popular anti-arthritis drug withdrawn due to health risks

NEW YORK—US pharmaceutical giant Merck announced a global withdrawal Thursday of its blockbuster arthritis drug Vioxx, currently taken by close to 2 million people worldwide, after a study showed it doubled patients' risk of heart attack and strokes.

Vioxx posted sales of $2.5 billion last year and has been widely marketed as a safe alter-

POPULAR/ A22

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Senators scold clueless cops over cell phone thefts

By Christine O. Avendaño

POLICE yesterday got a scolding from lawmakers for their lack of information and meager yet conflicting statistics on cell phone theft.

At the first hearing of the Senate committee on illegal drugs and public order on the issue, police officials were asked how they could

SENATORS/ A10

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Saturday, October 2, 2004 ★★ 76 pages / 8 sections / vol. 19 / no. 297 P18
website: www.inq7.net

DOJ rules out amnesty

Bush gives RP special mention on terror fight

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Christine O. Avendaño

THE PHILIPPINES got a special mention from US President George W. Bush during the first US Presidential Debate viewed by an estimated 50 million Americans and millions more around the world.

During the first part of the debate between Bush and his Democratic rival Sen. John Kerry, the US President mentioned the Philippines as he defended his decision to take on Iraq after 9/11.

Kerry had attacked Bush for going after Saddam Hussein and allowing Osama bin Laden to go scot-free.

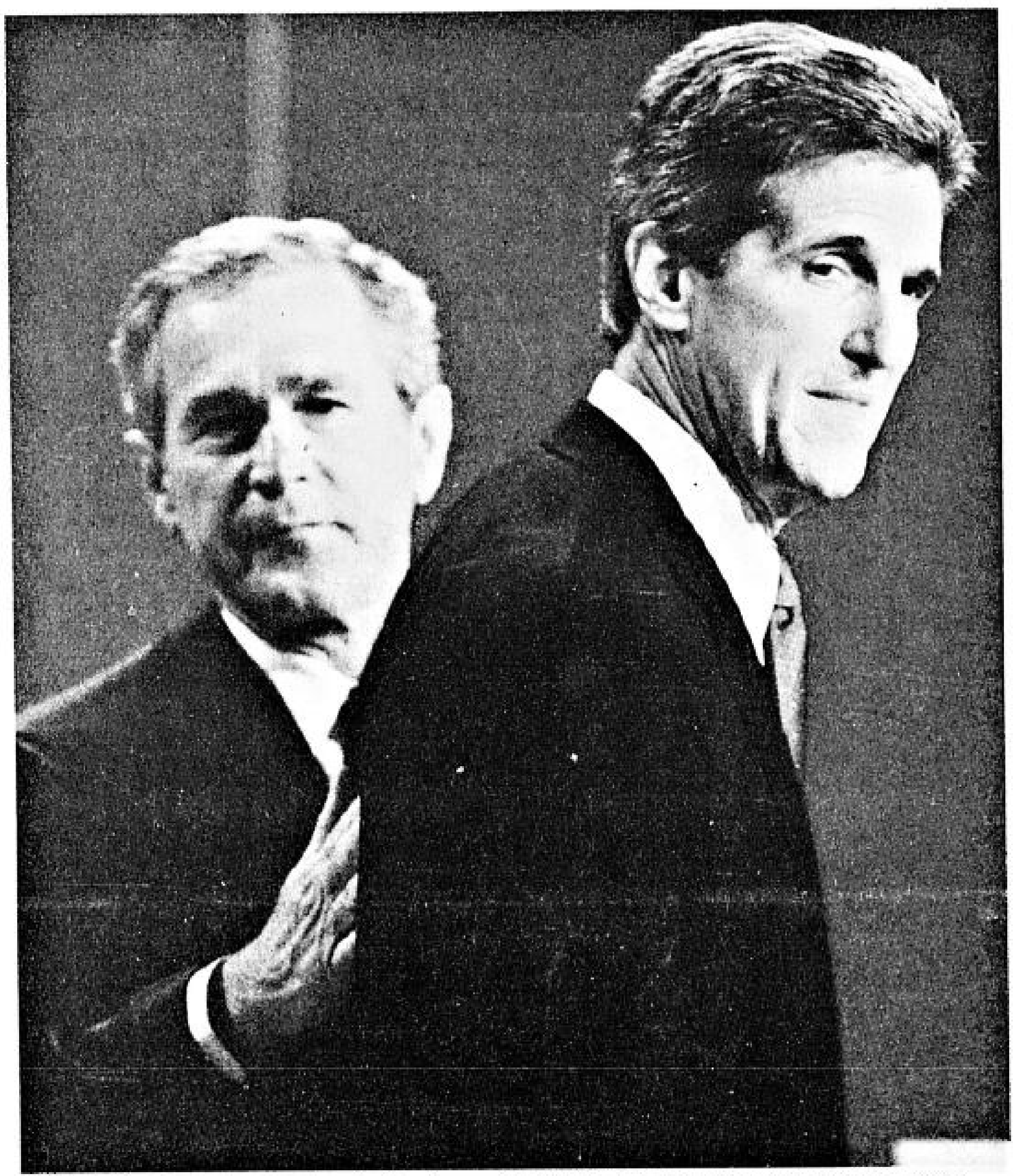
In turn, Bush asserted that the US and its allies were making progress on the war on terror.

"But the front on this war is more than just one place. The Philippines ... we've got help ... we're helping them there ... to bring al-Qaida affiliates to justice there," Bush said in the 90-minute debate devoted to the issue of the US foreign policy and Iraq.

"And of course Iraq is a central part in the war on terror," the US President said.

Although the Philippines was

BUSH/ A22



REUTERS

BUDDIES they're not. Just good sports after the presidential debate between the main contenders in the Nov. 2 US elections, the incumbent, Republican George W. Bush, and the Democratic senator from Massachussets, John Kerry. The first of three scheduled debates was held at the University of Miami in Florida.

Oakwood mutineers beyond GMA reach, says justice secretary

By Philip C. Tubeza, Juliet Labog-Javellana and Armand M. Nocum

THEY ARE beyond the reach of even President Macapagal-Arroyo.

After days of seemingly conflicting statements from Malacañang and Camp Aguinaldo, the Department of Justice yesterday categorically ruled out amnesty for the Oakwood mutineers facing coup charges before civil courts.

"The cases against them have been filed in court. They are already beyond the reach of the President," Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said, referring to 32 junior officers and enlisted men linked to the July 2003 takeover of the Oakwood Hotel in Makati City.

"There is no more means that I know of for us to drop or withdraw the cases," Gonzalez added.

Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz raised on Wednesday the possibility of an amnesty when he told reporters that Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita had called a meeting of defense and military officials "to discuss and study the mechanisms for amnesty because this may need the concurrence of Congress."

On Thursday, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said something else. He said amnesty for the mutineers was never discussed at a Palace meeting of defense, military and justice officials.

In an earlier statement issued by Bunye also on Thursday, a reference to the possibility of an amnesty as part of a reconciliation process was edited out.

Talking to reporters yesterday, Gonzalez said a supposed plan to grant amnesty to the Magdalo rebels after their leaders publicly apologized to Ms Arroyo was never discussed in Malacañang. He said Ms Arroyo had not given his department any directive to study such a plan.

He said the Department of National Defense also had not made any inquiries with the DOJ about possible amnesty for the rebels.

The Makati Regional Trial Court is currently hearing coup d'etat charges against 32 soldiers over the failed mutiny. The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has also initiated court-martial proceedings against them and more than 200 other soldiers.

"That is the situation. The only possibility is to grant a general amnesty, but that is for Congress to decide and not for the President," Gonzalez said.

He said that if a general amnesty was granted, the rebels would also be cleared of charges before military courts.

Gonzalez said Ms Arroyo could pardon the mutineers only after they had been convicted in court.

On July 20, Makati Judge Oscar Pimentel allowed at least 27 of the 32 accused to post a P100,000 bail each since there was not enough evidence to show that they led the mutiny.

Pimentel, however, denied bail to the alleged ring leaders on grounds that the evidence against them was strong.

Lawyer Roberto Pulido, the rebels' counsel, has asked the Supreme Court to stop the court-martial proceedings against the mutineers, arguing that the military court has no jurisdiction over them.

Pulido explained that Pimentel ruled on Feb. 11 that the charges against his clients were "not ser-

DOJ RULES/ A10

Kerry wins 1st presidential debate, polls say

WASHINGTON—Democrat John Kerry stood his ground with President George W. Bush in their first televised debate, delivering a strong performance that could put him back into the election race after weeks on the ropes, according to analysts who assessed the protagonists' sparring.

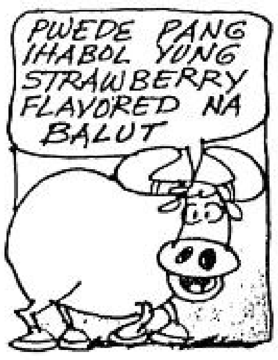
Instant polls conducted by US television networks gave a clear edge to the Massachusetts senator after a showdown Thursday (yesterday morning in Manila) with Bush on foreign policy and national security issues that was dominated by Iraq.

CBS showed Kerry the winner by 44-26 percent and ABC by 45-36 percent. A CNN/Gallup poll put the margin at 53-37 percent and said 46 percent reported feeling better about the Democrat after the debate, compared to 21 percent for Bush.

Analysts agreed that neither Kerry nor Bush landed any heavy blows during the 90-minute encounter at the University of Miami, the first of three presidential debates before the November 2 election.

"This was the closest thing to a tie," said Larry Sabato, director of the University of Virginia's Center for Politics. "I really was impressed. Kerry was articulate and crisp for once and Bush, I've never seen him so articulate."

KERRY/ A22



PWEDE PANG IHABOL YUNG STRAWBERRY FLAVORED NA BALUT

Funny research projects win IgNobel Awards

WASHINGTON—Researchers who found a link between country music and suicide, and a man who patented his combover hairstyle won IgNobel Awards for true but funny experiments on Thursday.

Other prizes went to a soft drink maker that bottled Thames River water in London and sold it as a designer drink, and to a woman who investigated the "5-second rule," according to which if food falls to the floor for few-

FUNNY/ A8

Belgian is animal's best friend in Palawan

By Marlet D. Salazar

THERE'S a good story to be told on the feast today of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron of animals.

It is A sweltering afternoon on the pier of Puerto Princesa and carabaos are being loaded on a ship bound for a slaughterhouse in Manila.

The shippers are packing the carabaos—horns and all—like sardines and the beasts of burden are beginning to stomp and wound each other. The boat trip, which could last anywhere from 30 to 60 hours, has not even started.

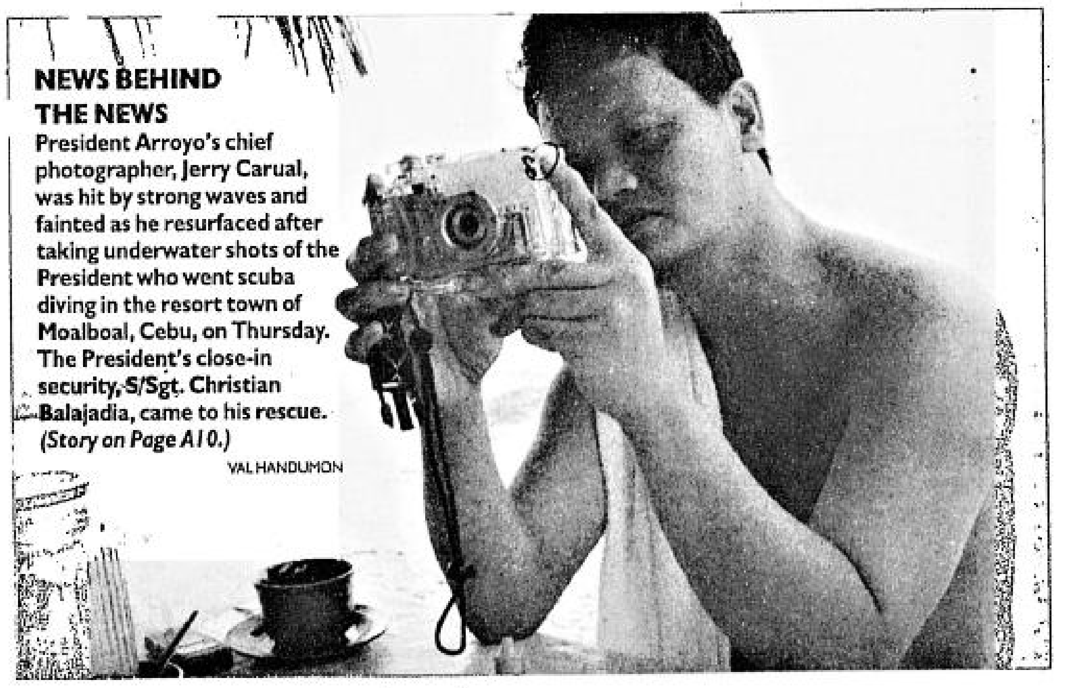
Yes, they are going to be slaughtered, but do they have to suffer?

Not if Belgian animal welfare expert Jackie Baut, 60, could help it.

She stands by the pier and makes sure the carabaos aren't loaded too early so they can stretch their legs. She checks that the trucks are not overcrowded, and that the shippers give water to the carabaos during the trip.

Jackie has long ago realized that she cannot do anything to save the carabaos from slaughter, but she makes sure they are not maltreated or made to suffer any more than they have to.

BELGIAN/ A8



NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS
President Arroyo's chief photographer, Jerry Carual, was hit by strong waves and fainted as he resurfaced after taking underwater shots of the President who went scuba diving in the resort town of Moalboal, Cebu, on Thursday. The President's close-in security, S/Sgt. Christian Balajadia, came to his rescue. *(Story on Page A10.)*

VAL HANDUMON

GSIS chief got ₱11-M housing loan in 2 days

By Norman Bordadora and Gil Cabacungan Jr.

WINSTON Garcia got an P11-million loan in only two days. But then he would "rather borrow than steal."

The loan made up the latest accusation to be made against Garcia, president and general manager of the Government Service Insurance System, by members of the militant Confederation for the Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees (or Courage) and a faction of the Kapisanan ng Manggagawa ng GSIS (KMG).

According to documents presented by his accusers, Garcia applied for a P12-million loan on Nov. 4 last year under the Bahay Ko Program of the GSIS, and he secured P11 million two days later.

The GSIS Pabahay Executive Committee issued Resolution No. 005-03 approving the loan to Garcia, who used the money to buy a 520-sq.-m. house and lot on Juan Luna Street, Lorenzo Village, Makati City. He is under fire for alleged mismanagement and misuse of state pension funds.

"I'd rather borrow than steal. There's nothing irregular with this because any member can get a housing loan in two to five days if their papers are complete," Garcia said yesterday in a phone interview. "I was treated like an ordinary GSIS member."

He said he decided to buy a house because he deemed it more

GSIS CHIEF/ A10

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread over Bicol Region and Eastern Visayas. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers.

COMPILED BY RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/10/01/04 SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Second FRONTPAGE

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Bishop links 4 execs to 'jueteng'

By Blanche S. Rivera

FOUR national officials are involved in "jueteng," or the illegal numbers game, one of them receiving as much as P6 million a month from the gambling operators, claimed the anti-gambling vigilante, Pangasinan Archbishop Oscar Cruz.

But Cruz, who chairs the Krusadang Bayan Laban sa Jueteng, refused to identify the officials, not even to say whether they were elected or appointed, or to provide details of the "private and confidential inquiry" that was supposed to have uncovered the story.

At a joint press conference in Manila yesterday with Philippine National Police Chief Edgardo Aglipay, Cruz also said that he knew of at least six mayors protecting and promoting jueteng.

"They are giving positive protection, not just beneficial tolerance," said Cruz who fended off all attempts by journalists at the forum to extract more information from him.

"One of the mayors is receiving P500,000 a month from the jueteng operations in his jurisdiction, he said.

He said he would give the names of the national officials that he is accusing of involvement in illegal gambling to Aglipay "when the evidence is strong."

Aglipay pledged to provide security to anti-gambling advocates like Cruz who has reportedly been receiving death threats.

Cruz, who claims to have found out about the four national officials' operations in the middle of the year, said the private inquiry called "Trace the Centavo" followed the money in the jueteng operations.

He said those who conducted the survey received the information from small-time jueteng collectors and the operators led them to where the jueteng collections went.

"You will come to a stop where you cannot trace it any higher, and so far we have stopped on all these four counts. We seem to find nobody else above those four (officials)," he said.

The suspect officials who are holding national office operate in Luzon and the Visayas and are still active in government, said Cruz.

He said two of the officials receive payola for giving protection to the jueteng operators. The other two seem to be actively involved, "as if they are really part of syndicated gambling," he said.

Cruz refused to name the officials, saying he wanted to be very sure of their involvement before jumping the gun.

"We have to be sure. We would like also to protect their good names. We will give the matter to General Aglipay to check the validity or invalidity of our findings," he said.

Jueteng is a P30-billion-a-year business, patronized mainly by the desperately poor who hope to improve their lives by winning the numbers game.

Aglipay said that "if evidence is given to us, we will file a case."

He urged lawmakers to pass more stringent laws against illegal gambling in much the same way that Congress increased the jail terms for those arrested for illegal drug pushing and possession.

Aglipay said the "100 percent" of those arrested for illegal gambling are able to post bail because they are bankrolled by the jueteng syndicates.

PNP DIRECTOR General Edgardo Aglipay, center, and Bishop Oscar V. Cruz listen to a speaker during a press conference by anti-gambling advocates in Manila on Friday. ERIK ARAZAS

"Sometimes the jail term is just one day, so we have to let them go," he said.

He said the PNP has a list of so-called gambling lords who are already being monitored but few have been arrested. Those who are caught are always able to post bail and resume their operations.

"Going after the gambling lords is like arresting drug lords. Arrests are done among the small jueteng operators. You do not know who's behind it. It's hard because those arrested won't tell who the (gambling lords) are," the PNP chief said.

The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines is mobilizing its 85 diocesan social action centers nationwide to monitor the PNP's commitment to the anti-jueteng drive.

Cruz, the most visible cleric in the Church's anti-gambling campaign, is reportedly confronted with death threats but has refused the offer of a security detail from the Pangasinan police.

CBCP spokesperson Msgr. Hernando Coronel said the CBCP supported Cruz's investigation into the involvement of national officials in jueteng.

Coronel said the CBCP-National Secretariat on Social Action, Justice and Peace will submit its findings on jueteng to the CBCP plenary assembly in January.

He said the CBCP would also use its partnership with the Ombudsman's office to initiate action against erring officials.

End violence, bishop urges Tabara killers

BACOLOD CITY—Bacolod Bishop Vicente Navarra yesterday called on the killers of rebel leader Arturo Tabara to put an end to the violence, saying that killing was "not the best way to promote peace."

Tabara, 53, chair of the Rebolusyonaryong Partido ng Manggagawa-Pilipinas and Stephen Ong, 19, the boyfriend of Tabara's daughter and a Silliman University student, were gunned down by suspected communist hitmen in Quezon City last Sunday.

The RPM-P, a breakaway group of the Communist Party of the Philippines, has blamed the CPP and its armed wing, the New People's Army, for Tabara's killing.

Tabara is said to have been on the CPP hit list after he broke away from the mainstream rebel movement. *Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Mahathir arriving in Manila on Monday

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

FORMER Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad is arriving on Monday to hold talks with President Macapagal-Arroyo and business leaders.

The President will host dinner for Mahathir at the Palace on Monday, the start of a two-day working visit for the ex-premier who retired in October 2003 after 22 years at the helm of the Muslim-led Southeast Asian country.

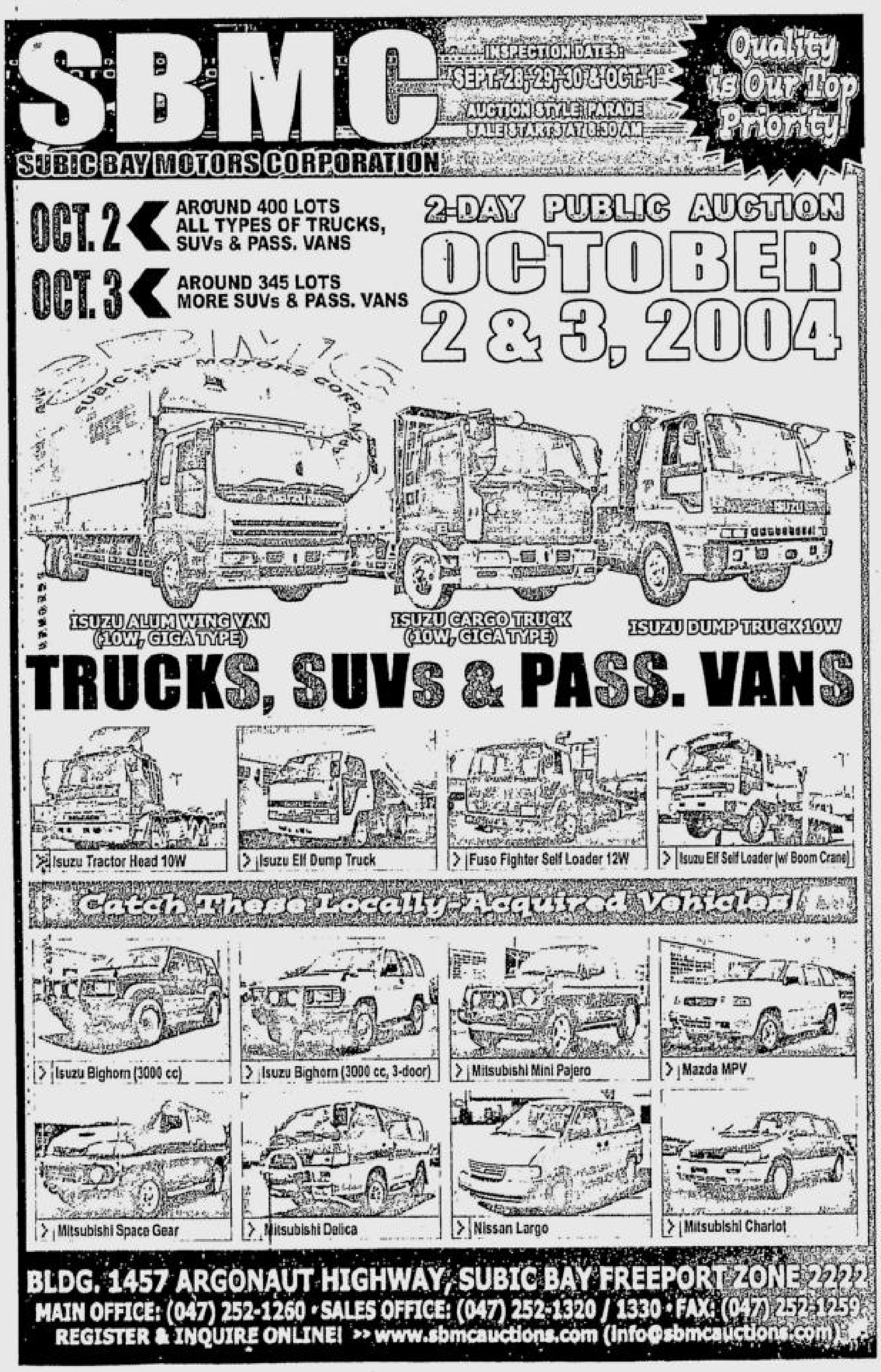
He is scheduled to address a session of the Philippine Business Conference on Tuesday.

Mahathir's visit comes as the government and the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front prepare to begin formal negotiations to end the secessionist war in Mindanao, a crucial step in flushing out terrorists and bringing development to the island.

It was under Mahathir's leadership that Malaysia agreed to act as host and facilitator of the peace talks with the Muslim separatists.

Malaysia is also leading an international team of observers to monitor a ceasefire and help promote an atmosphere conducive for the success of the talks.

Mahathir, a critic of the US-led war against Iraq, is still regarded as an influential figure in the Malaysian government.



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Ombudsman set to probe Lorenzo's cell, jet fuel bills

By Armand N. Nocum, Carlito Pablo and Norman Bordadora

FORMER Agriculture Secretary Luis "Cito" Lorenzo Jr. is set to be investigated by the Office of the Ombudsman and Congress for allegedly charging to the government his high cellular phone bills and jet fuel expenses while at the helm of the agency.

Lorenzo Jr. allegedly incurred P324,287 in cellular phone bills and 2.9 million in jet fuel expenses which he charged to attached agencies of the Department of Agriculture.

Assistant Ombudsman Ernesto Nocos said Lorenzo's reputation as the richest member of the Cabinet will not shield him from investigation specially if it is proven that he dipped his hands into public funds.

"If there are evidence that he used public funds to maintain a high living, then we can initiate investigation and if evidence warrants, file graft charges against him," said Nocos.

Lorenzo, a scion of the Davao-based family that controls Del Monte Philippines Inc., is reputed to be the richest member of the Macapagal administration, with a declared net worth of P512.122 million as of 2003.

Nocos, however, said they will wait for the Commission on Audit to formally endorse to them its report on Lorenzo's high telephone bill.

"We will immediately start the investigation as soon the COA endorses the report to us," he said.

According to Nocos, this is the first time they are investigating an official who has incurred that much phone bill.

In Congress, Rep. Rafael Mariano (party-list Anakpawis) is seeking a congressional investigation into Lorenzo's alleged cellular phone expenses.

"It is grossly unjust to farmers and fishers struggling to keep afloat from the impacts of globalization while Lorenzo kept talking and texting with his cell phone," Mariano said.

Mariano said that aside from Lorenzo's mobile phone expenses, Congress will also look into the other bills he racked up while DA chief.

These include P2.5 million in funds intended to mitigate effects of the El Niño dry spell, which he used to charter private planes, and P5.3 million for radio spots "at a time when the phenomenon did not occur."

COA records show that Lorenzo reportedly charged his phone bills to Quedan Rural Credit Guarantee Corp. (Quedancor) which he chaired as DA secretary.

Lorenzo remains chair of Quedancor and the Land Bank of the Philippines.

The left-wing Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas also called for a more stringent audit of Lorenzo's expenses.

The KMP revealed that Lorenzo also allegedly charged to Livecor, another DA attached agency, the P440,000 bill for his private trips in a Lear jet.

Politico linked to shabu megalab

By Nelson F. Flores and Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

INTERIOR Secretary Angelo Reyes yesterday ordered the investigation of an influential Central Visayan politician who is being linked to the alleged mastermind of an international drug syndicate behind the operation of the country's biggest "shabu" laboratory in Mandaue City which was raided last week.

Reyes, who was appointed as Dangerous Drugs Board Officer-in-Charge early this week, ordered Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency Director General Anselmo Avenido Jr. to look at all angles in the case and to verify incoming reports.

Reyes, however, declined to identify the politician involved pending the result of the PDEA investigation. PDEA sources said this politician lost in the May elections.

But Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Cebu Rep. Antonio Cuenco urged drug enforcement authorities to unmask the principal Filipino culprits behind the big Mandaue shabu laboratory.

Pimentel and Cuenco stressed that the PNP and PDEA should exhaust all efforts to trace and pin down the big fish who own and operate the Mandaue drug laboratory, in the face of suspicion that they enjoy the protection of well-placed officials in the civilian and law enforcement agencies, particularly in Cebu.

The Philippine government is now seeking custody of the suspected syndicate mastermind identified as Calvin de Jesus Tan who was arrested by Hong Kong authorities Wednesday night at a ferry terminal bound for Macau.

Cuenco, chair of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, said he would propose to the Department of Foreign Affairs the cancellation of Tan's passport so he can be deported to the Philippines.

Cuenco was expected to meet with DFA officials yesterday afternoon to discuss the matter.

Tan , 29, was detained by Hong Kong authorities as he tried to flee Hong Kong to neighboring Macau. He has been under surveillance since he arrived in Hong Kong last week.

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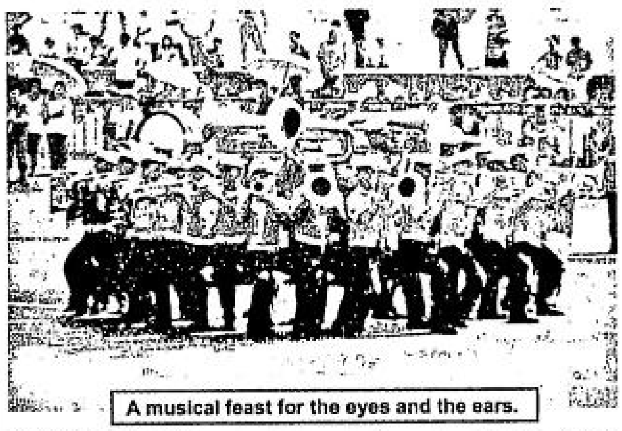
A musical feast for the eyes and the ears.

A colorful float at the Grand Parade.

Mayor Lito Atienza at the National Seafarers Day celebration at the Quirino Grandstand.

President GMA and Fr. Savino Bernardi, CS with this year's winner of the Outstanding Seamen of the Year (left): The wife of Capt. Ernesto S. Menorca, 3/O Lugen T. Ortillano, Capt. Gregorio B. Sialsa and the son of the late Capt. Wilijado P. Abuid, Sr.

The Philippines is a seafaring nation. Filipinos historically sailed vast bodies of oceans to fish and to trade. It is not so surprising then that the country is the biggest supplier of seamen in the world, with more than 200,000 of them onboard ocean-going vessels or luxury liners as of last year's count.

Globe *Kababayan*, the newest service handle by innovations leader Globe Telecom for the OFWs and their families, paid tribute to *Pinoy* seafarers in two recent events, namely, the 9th National Seafarers' Day at the Quirino Grandstand and the 1st United Filipino Seafarers Summit held at the Trade Hall of the Harrison Plaza Shopping Mall.

The sponsorship of these two separate events are Globe *Kababayan*'s way of recognizing the contributions these modern day seafaring heroes make for the national economy and the sacrifices they endure at sea to help improve the lives of their respective families.

Globe *Kababayan* kicked off its fine roster of activities for the *Pinoy* seafarers at the 1st United Filipinos Seafarers Summit held on September 23-26, 2004. This four-day livelihood symposium gave seafarers and their families ideas to help them set up their own small and medium sized businesses.

At the summit, Globe *Kababayan* showcased the potential of AutoloadMAX as a convenient means to earn extra income. Globe Senior Account Manager for Overseas Mobile Service/Wireless Sales and Distribution Apa P. Armamento told a packed audience how by availing of an AutoloadMAX retailer SIM, they can expect to make at least P4,000 monthly or more by simply selling prepaid loads to Globe Prepaid and Touch Mobile subscribers. As a case study, he used the story of Susan Sacro, a housewife of an OFW who now earns more than P20,000 by just selling AutoloadMAX prepaid load credits. Realizing the quick financial yield of being an AutoloadMAX retailer, a large portion of the audience immediately signed up at the Globe booth after the presentation.

Part of the services being enjoyed by Filipino seafarers today is also the availability of Globe's International Roaming Service which allows one to communicate to his or her loved ones in the Philippines as soon as they dock on the shore. Only Globe has an international roaming service for both postpaid and prepaid subscribers that permits calling and texting even while abroad.

Globe *Kababayan* closed the summit with an hour-long variety show which combined elements of a game show and a live concert. The top notch comic and musical antics of popular talents Keempee De Leon and Tuesday Vargas kept the audience highly entertained and rolling and laughing in their seats.

Globe *Kababayan* also sponsored the 9th National Seafarers Day celebrations at the Quirino Grandstand held on September 26, 2004. This annual event organized by the Apostleship of the Sea, a Catholic lay and religious organization found in 300 ports throughout the world, paid tribute to Filipino seafarers who remained true to the ideals of Christian living while away at sea and from their families.

No less than the President herself, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo was on hand to hear the Eucharistic Celebration given by the Most Reverend Precioso Cantillas, DD, and also to give the award for the most Outstanding Seafarer of the Year.

This year the award was given to 3/O Lugen T. Ortillano, Captain Gregorio B. Sialsa, the late Captain Wilijado Abuid, Sr. and Captain Ernesto S. Mendoza. Globe *Kababayan* donated the trophies and the AutoloadMAX retailer SIM pre-loaded with P1, 000 given to each of the winners.

Other distinguished guests at the celebration were Department of Labor and Employment Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas, Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs-Department of Foreign Affairs Jose Brillantes and Maritime Industry Authority Administrator Vicente Suaso, Jr.

Knowing the valuable service these modern day heroes do for their country and their families, Globe *Kababayan* continuously helps alleviate the living conditions of their families back home while strengthening their relationships across the distance.

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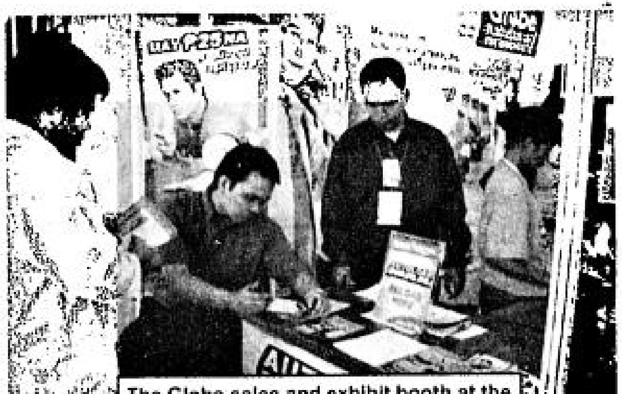
The Globe sales and exhibit booth at the 1st United Filipinos Seafarers Summit.

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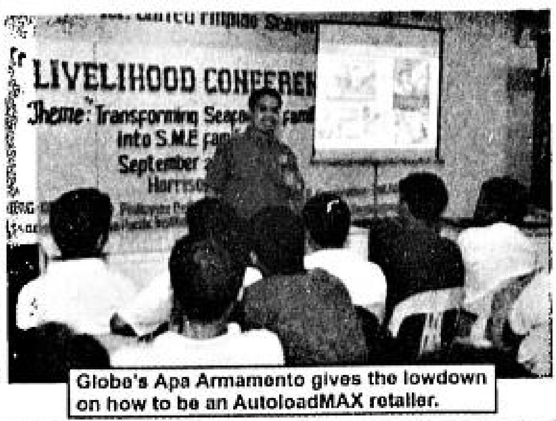
1st. United Filipino Seafarers
Tuesday Vargas and Keempee De Leon test a contestant's knowledge of Globe *Kababayan*.



Globe's Apa Armamento gives the lowdown on how to be an AutoloadMAX retailer.

Globe Kababayan
MOBILE SERVICES PARA SA OFW

NPAs kill 4 cops in Davao

By Anthony S. Allada and Ferdinand O. Zuasola
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—Four policemen were killed in an ambush by communist guerrillas in Baganga, Davao Oriental, yesterday morning, authorities said.

Provincial police chief Supt. Catalino Cuy said New People's Army (NPA) rebels ambushed the policemen in the center of the town, shooting two dead.

The rebels snatched two other policemen who were later found dead in the outskirts of the town a few hours after the ambush, Cuy told reporters.

The attack occurred several days after soldiers from the Army's 30th Special Forces Company raided an NPA camp in Barangay Coog here. No rebel was found in the area.

Cuy identified the slain policemen as police officers Ranulito Bonghanoy, Jose Marlon Avellanosa, Juan Gambong and Alfredo Cutaran.

Cuy said the four were in a patrol car on their way to market to buy supplies when they were attacked by rebels believed to be under the NPA's Front Committee 15.

Cuy said the rebels fled on motorcycles with an M-16 Armalite rifle and four .45 caliber handguns taken from the policemen.

Col. Agane Adriatico, military spokesperson for Southeastern Mindanao, said soldiers helped the police track down the rebels led by a "Kumander Doming."

Rebs free jailed comrade

SUSPECTED communist guerrillas ambushed a prison van to free a detained comrade, officials said yesterday. Five suspected NPA rebels hit the prison van Thursday in Mawab, Compostela Valley, snatching captured NPA intelligence officer Jordan Donillo as jail guards took him to a court hearing, a police report said.
Four people—two jail guards, a clerk and a driver—were hurt in the attack.

The NPA has stepped up attacks against the police and the military in the province in recent days.

Last month, two police officers in San Isidro town were gunned down by suspected rebels. NPA rebels also stormed an outdoor dance party and disarmed a police officer. Aside from Davao Oriental, communist rebels also stepped up activities in other provinces.

Elsewhere, government troops shot dead a member of a breakaway communist guerrilla faction in a clash near Arayat, Pampanga on Thursday, Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Buenaventura Pascual said.

The man was a suspected member of the Revolutionary Alliance of the Children of the Sweat, an NPA offshoot, he added. *Reuters, Jofelle P. Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau, AFP*

Rebels attack troops guarding Malampaya natural gas project

ABOUT 20 communist guerrillas ambushed troops guarding the $4.5-billion Malampaya natural gas project, the country's largest energy project, killing a civilian and wounding four soldiers, an Army spokesperson said Friday.

Lt. Col. Restituto Padilla, a military spokesperson, said the soldiers were on board two Army trucks on their way back to the main Army base in Puerto Princesa on Wednesday when about 20 New People's Army rebels tried to stop the convoy.

The trucks were coming back at around 11:30 a.m. after transporting personnel and supplies to the headquarters of Task Force Malampaya which is guarding the Malampaya gas project when the troops were attacked in Sitio Ibangley, Abongan, Taytay, Palawan. An hour-long firefight ensued.

"Malampaya is safe and secure," Padilla said. "Our security forces are on a high-state of alert and a pursuit operation is under way to punish the rebels."

Padilla said a civilian who had hitched a ride on one of the trucks was killed and four soldiers were wounded in the initial burst of gunfire. The rebels were driven back in a brief gun battle.

The wounded soldiers were taken to the nearest hospital for treatment.

The civilian fatality was identified as Fernando Huerta who died of multiple gunshot wounds in the chest and legs. The injured soldiers were identified as Master Sgt. Diosdado Banago and Staff Sgt. Nestor Mendoza, both of the Philippine Army; Seaman Nelson Abuid and Airman First Class Roger Laroza.

In an interview, CPP-NPA spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal said he still had to confirm if NPA rebels were behind the ambush.

The Melito Glor Command of Southern Tagalog operates in Palawan, he said.

Some residents of Sitio Ibangley said they heard several gunshots that lasted for about three hours and saw some armed men took two rifles from the trucks when the military fled.

Pursuit operations against the rebels were launched by the 570th Composite Tactical Wing based in Puerto Princesa. Two UH-1H helicopters and two OV-10 Broncos attack planes were dispatched to hunt the rebels who fled to nearby jungles. Navy gunboats also set up a blockade around Taytay town.

The military said the rebel attack in Palawan was a rare occurrence.

Padilla said not a single incident had been reported since November 2001 when a military task force was formed to secure the energy project.

The project is operated by a consortium led by a unit of the Royal/Dutch Shell group. Shell Philippines Exploration BV and ChevronTexaco have 45 percent stake each, with the remaining 10 percent held by the state-run PNOC Exploration Corp.

The Malampaya field, which has recoverable reserves of 2.5 trillion cubic feet of gas and 85 million barrels of condensate, fuels three power stations with a combined capacity of 2,700 megawatts.

In May, the defense and energy departments agreed to beef up security in Malampaya because of fears of possible sabotage by militants such as the Abu Sayyaf group.

A $21.5-million project to install an air and surface defense system—comprising radars, communications links and weapons—is also planned to protect the single largest foreign investment in the Philippines. *Reuters, Alcuin Papa and Jofelle P. Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau, AFP*

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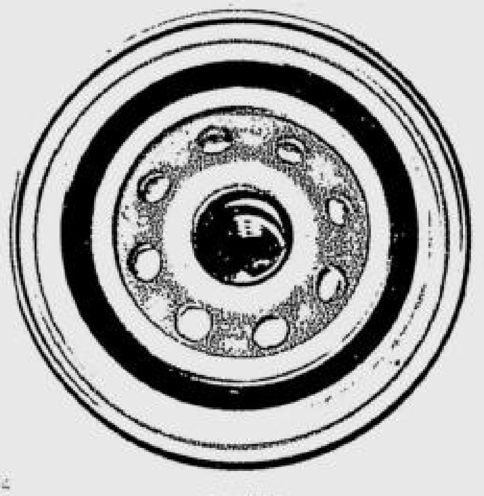

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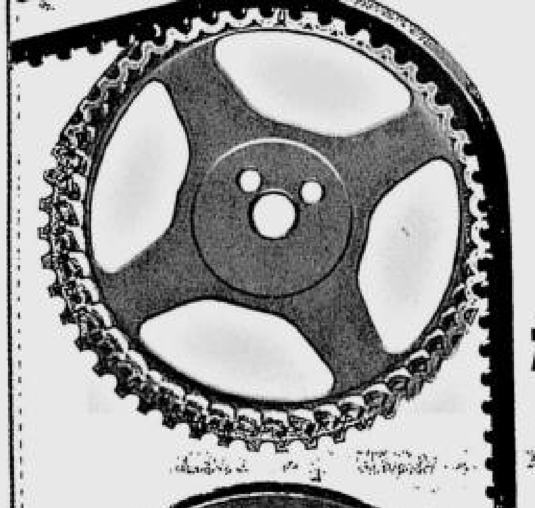

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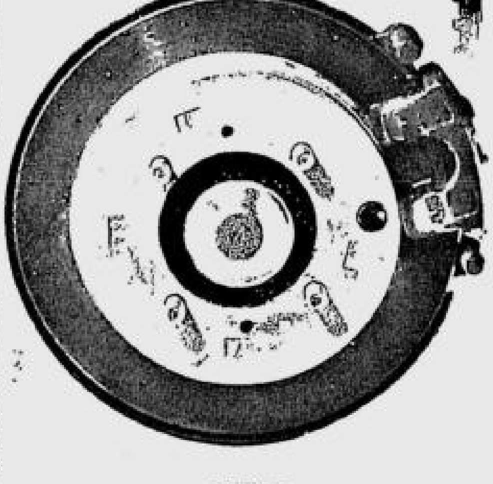

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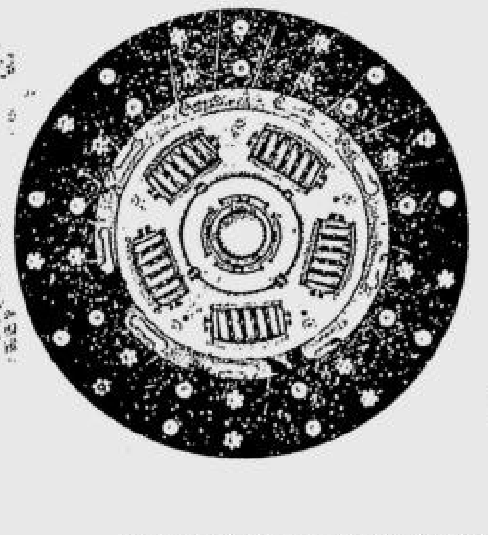

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September 18 – 19, 2004 for Fort Bonifacio branch,
September 25 – 26, 2004 for Makati branch, and
September 30 – October 3, 2004 for Ortigas branch.

3. The customer shall fill up the raffle coupon with his/her name, address, telephone numbers and affix his/her signature and then drop it in appropriately marked tambiolo conspicuously located at MC Home Depot branch during its designated Sale days.

4. Deadline for submission of entries shall be the end of store hours of the last day of sale of each branch – 8:00 pm of September 19, 2004 for MC Fort Bonifacio, 7:30 pm of September 26, 2004 for MC Makati and 8:00 pm of October 3, 2004 for MC Ortigas.

5. Major prizes to be given away during the Anniversary Raffle promo for each branch includes a total of five (5) tour packages good for two persons for 4 days and 3 nights inclusive of the following:
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- Ferry fare Cebu/Tagbilaran
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6. A total of 15 tour packages and 30 American Tourister travel bags by Samsonite will be given away during the raffle draws for all three branches of MC Home Depot.

7. Raffle draw dates for each of the three MC Home Depot branches including venue and time are as follows:
MC Fort Bonifacio – September 26, 2004
Venue: MC Fort hardware, 4:00 pm
MC Makati – October 3, 2004
Venue and Time: MC Makati hardware, 4:00 pm
MC Ortigas – October 10, 2004
Venue and time: MC Ortigas hardware, 4:00 pm

8. The three raffle draws will be held in the presence of a DTI representative.

9. A participant can only win once per draw (per branch). If a name is drawn more than once, he/she gets the prize of higher value.

10. All winners will be informed of their winnings through registered mail immediately after the raffle draw dates.

11. Winners can claim their prizes from the specified MC Home Depot where their names were drawn during the raffle draw. In claiming their prizes, winners should present the raffle stub and valid identification including but not limited to – driver's license, company ID, SSS ID, etc.

12. Unclaimed prizes within the given period of 60 days shall be forfeited with prior DTI approval.

13. All major prizes are transferable but are non-convertible to cash. All consolation prizes however are both non-transferable and non-convertible to cash.

14. Employees of MC Home Depot, suppliers, tenants / concessionaires, participating sponsors and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are not qualified to join the promo.

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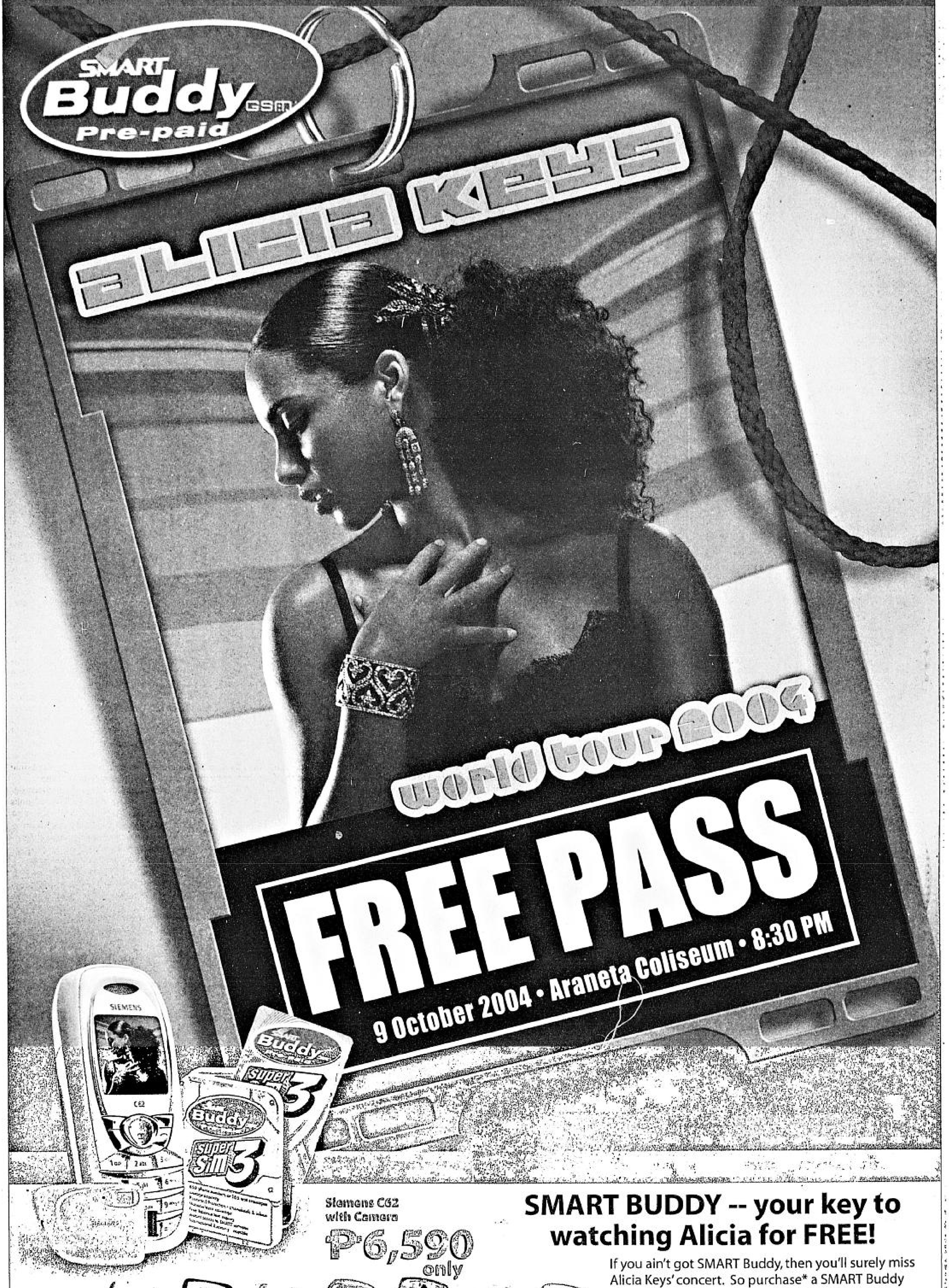

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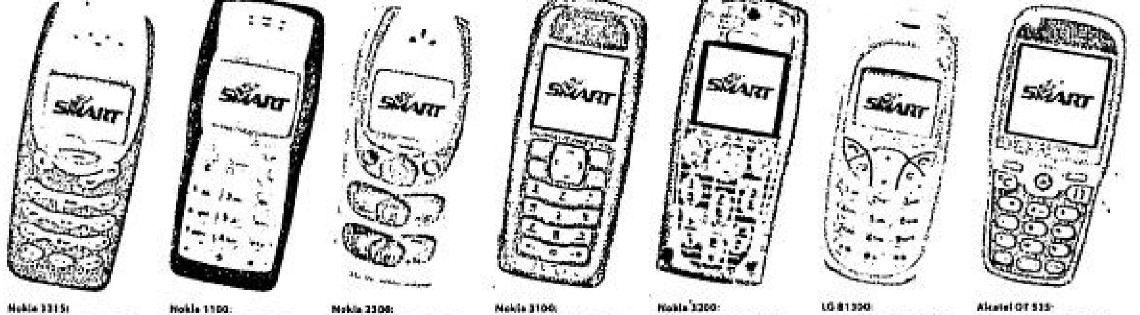

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'Da King' a no-show in Muslim wedding in Davao

DAVAO CITY—Defeated presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr. did not show up at a Muslim royal wedding here yesterday, an event which President Macapagal-Arroyo attended.

Poe and the President were among the principal sponsors at the nuptials of Vice Mayor Madzhar Loong of Parang, Sulu and Mely Ann Pendatun Paglas, the daughter of Datu Ibrahim Paglas III.

The senior Paglas, who campaigned hard in Maguindanao for Poe's candidacy in the May presidential elections, said he intentionally invited the rival candidates "in the spirit of reconciliation" but the actor had declined.

He said Poe, who is pursuing an election protest against Ms Arroyo's proclamation, was simply not available.

Former senator Loren Legarda, Poe's running mate in May, showed up at the wedding which was held at the Waterfront Insular hotel here.

Asked if she was surprised at the President's presence at the wedding of a daughter of a staunch opposition supporter, Legarda said she had always known that Ms Arroyo would be going.

She said she was not intimidated by the President's presence. After all, they have been friends for a long time and she even became the President's "*kumare*" when she stood as sponsor at the 2002 wedding of Mikey Arroyo, the President's eldest son, Legarda said.

The President and Legarda sat in the front row on either side of British Ambassador Paul Dimond.

Legarda was seen briefly talking to the President during the ceremonies.

Other government officials who stood as sponsors were Secretary Jesus Dureza, the presidential assistant for Mindanao; Secretary Luis Lorenzo, presidential adviser on job generation and chair of the Land Bank of the Philippines and Quedancor; Parouk Hussin, governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao; Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte and local political leaders identified with the administration and the opposition.

The President's visit here yesterday was mainly for the opening of the "Wow Mindanao Exposition" organized by the Department of Tourism and top Mindanao leaders.

She also met with officials of the Mindanao Economic Development Council (Medco), an attached agency of the Office of the President, to discuss the Mindanao investment program.

Ms Arroyo was to spend the night in the city and return to the capital today.

Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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Ignore media, Soliman tells HR experts

BAGUIO CITY—Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman yesterday asked the country's top human resources experts to ignore media reports about the poor state of the economy, saying they only obstruct efforts to unite business and government in solving the fiscal crisis.

"Common ground is difficult to find, especially if one allows [the] media to dictate one's perspective on a daily basis where the norm is to crunch out depressing news one after the other," Soliman told the 41st annual conference here of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP).

She asked the human resource experts to help guide initiatives designed to merge government and business resources in poverty reduction.

"We need to encourage and nurture problem solvers" instead of the unending stream of "complainers who think we will never make it," she said.

Soliman said efforts should be made to find the common ground that exists among Filipinos, instead of drawing lines of divisions on grounds of culture, economics, politics and social status.

She said that when these differences are highlighted to cause conflicts and violence, "increasing numbers of people join the ranks of [the] poor because the economies of the world are terrorized by these divisions." *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Bill seeks to punish editors who refuse to print or air reply

A CONGRESSMAN from Northern Samar has filed a bill seeking to punish editors and publishers of newspapers and radio and television station managers who refuse to air or print the reply of those accused of alleged wrongdoing in their reports.

While the Constitution guarantees freedom of expression, freedom of the press and freedom of speech, a person alleged to have committed wrongdoing in print or on air should have the correlative right to rebut the accusation in the same forum, said Rep. Romualdo Vicencio who filed House Bill No. 2672.

Vicencio said he has observed that the subjects of such articles and broadcast reports were seldom given an equal chance to defend themselves or clarify the issue affecting them.

"Media has the power to influence perception of the public, providing the thrust that mold public opinion," Vicencio said in a press statement. He noted that media can "make or break a person."

In his bill, Vicencio proposed that the editor-in-chief and publisher or the station manager of a radio or television station who refuse to air the reply of the subjects of such reports should be fined P10,000 for the first offense, P20,000 for the second offense, and P30,000 with a jail term of not more than 30 days for the third offense. *Cynthia D. Balana*

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Register exotic pets, animal lovers told

THE IDLE iguana in your living room must go out and be counted. Your slithery python, too, can't slip out of this census.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has called on the owners of "wildlife pets" to register their animals with the agency between Oct. 11 and Dec. 9.

Failure to do so could mean seizure of their pets by the DENR. Worse, uncooperative pet keepers could face arrest—and end up being the ones caged instead.

Environment Secretary Michael Defensor issued an administrative order on Thursday allowing the "60-day reprieve"—an amnesty period for those unaware of the restrictions on wildlife ownership and trade under Republic Act 9147.

Known as the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act, the law was signed by President Macapagal-Arroyo on July 30, 2001. It requires, among other things, that the government keep a record of wildlife species under the care of private individuals or business establishments.

The records system covers both exotic (imported) or indigenous pets, regardless of whether the animal is on the endangered list or not. Such pets range from lizards, snakes, birds, to turtles, primates, monkeys, tigers and even crocodiles.

The registration can be done at any DENR office nationwide, Defensor said. *Volt Contreras*

Belgian is animal's best friend in Palawan

From page A1

"There is the Philippine Animal Welfare Act which states that any form of cruelty shall be penalized even if the transporter has obtained a permit from the director of the Bureau of Animal Industry. Cruelty in transporting includes overcrowding, placing of animals in the trunk or under the hood of vehicles," she says.

Caring for wildlife

Jackie, mother of four and grandmother of six, first came to the Philippines in 1980 with her husband Jean de Biolley, an engineer assigned in Leyte.

When her husband's contract was over, they went back to Belgium. In 1990, Jackie became a widow. In 1998, she went back to the Philippines where she decided to live in Palawan because "she fell in love with the place and its wildlife."

In 2000, Jackie, together with Filipino and Belgian friends founded the Palawan Animal Welfare Association (Pawa) to rehabilitate wildlife seized from poachers in the island and to return them to their natural habitat.

At present, there are 50 Pawa members who live in Belgium and 10 Filipino members.

At the beginning, the group worked on easing the suffering of animals in Puerto Princesa. Later, they started rescuing stray animals, assisting the city pound, and ensuring that carabaos were treated well during shipment.

In 2001, Jackie started a new project to rescue the carabaos. She wrote letters to the Department of Agriculture asking them to establish a sanctuary for retired carabaos so they did not have to be sent to the slaughterhouse.

Pawa scored a victory when the Carabao Protection Ordinance of the province of Palawan was signed. This law protects the population of carabaos as well as their proper shipment. Jackie acknowledges Vice Governor David Ponce de Leon for authoring the ordinance.

Adopt-a-carabao

She also started an adoption program for rescued carabaos bound for the slaughterhouse. With funds from its Belgian members, Pawa would purchase the animal, put it up for adoption with farmers as common takers.

"We know we cannot save all the carabaos from the slaughterhouse," Jackie says, "but each rescued animal is a victory for our cause."

They had already rescued 10 carabaos, which have been adopted.

Jackie regularly visits the carabaos in their new homes to make sure they are treated well.

They also plan to establish a sanctuary for carabaos that are no longer qualified for adoption.

Pawa oversees that carabaos for slaughter are at the right age. Males should not be less than 7 years old and females should not be less than 11 years old.

City pound

As for the rest of the animal population, Jackie has created an adoption program for dogs and has started a campaign of sterilization and castration to humanely regulate the population of dogs and cats in Palawan.

Pawa, with funding from the World Society for the Protection of Animals, UK, also worked for the recent renovation of the Puerto Princesa dog pound.

Pawa also has a mobile clinic—a two cage-trailer pulled by a motorbike for the transport of small animals. Jackie and volunteer vets go on short trips to sterilize animals for free, or to visit dogs they had rescued, rehabilitated and found new homes for.

First cat house

Jackie has set up what could probably be the first cattery in the country. This is a screened-off area in her yard, where she keeps feral cats or strays after they have been sterilized. They stay for a day or two, and when they have recovered, she sets them free.

Mass spaying and neutering of dogs and cats is clearly a pet project.

"Aside from keeping the overpopulation of strays under control, it will help reduce the spread of rabies," she says, adding: "The city administration has kindly supported my activities. We are working together amiably for the welfare of the animals."

Company she keeps

Jackie says that she prefers the company of animals to people. In fact, she lives in a modest home in Barangay Irawan, Puerto Princesa with three dogs, two cats, and seven chickens.

She has a good friend—Nita Lichauco, president of the Manila-based Philippine Animal Welfare Society, who herself lives with more than a dozen dogs and cats.

Funny research projects win IgNobel Awards

From page A1

er than five seconds, it is safe to eat.

The annual awards, presented at Harvard University in Massachusetts by the publishers of the Annals of Improbable Research, are a spoof of the Nobel prizes and represent years of scouring scholarly journals and newspapers for scientific efforts worth poking fun at.

Jim Gundlach of the University of Alabama said he got hate mail when he first published his study showing that people who listen to country music have higher rates of suicide.

He said it does not hold true any more.

"The country music that we have today is not the same kind of country music that was related to suicide back when we did this," he said in a telephone interview.

He said the findings, published in 1992, surprised him too.

Jillian Clarke was a Chicago high school student when she investigated the "5-second rule" that states if food falls to the floor for fewer than 5 seconds, it is safe to pick it up and eat it.

She found, in a survey, that 76 percent of US women and 56 percent of men were familiar with the 5-second rule, and used it to justify picking up and eating dropped treats, or letting their children do so.

Clarke swabbed floors at the University of Illinois and found them surprisingly clean of microbes, thus justifying the rule.

Hair style

Frank Smith of Orlando, Florida, won his engineering IgNobel posthumously for patenting his peculiar combover—a way of covering up a bald spot with hair.

"He actually had a diagram and a science to the method that he used," Smith's granddaughter, Heather Smith Adams, said in a telephone interview.

"There was a specific pattern—you had to grow out your hair to a particular length and there was an actual pattern for how you laid the hair over one side and then combed it over to the other side," added Smith.

"You know how combovers have that stringy look? This is to avoid that stringy look. I didn't know for a long time that he even had a combover."

A chemistry IgNobel went to Coca-Cola Company of Britain "for using advanced technology to convert liquid from the River Thames into Dasani, a transparent form of water, which for precautionary reasons has been made unavailable to consumers."

Five hundred thousand bottles of the product were pulled from the market last March after unacceptable levels of bromate, a potential cancer-causing chemical, were found. Coke is seeking a new British bottling location. *Reuters*

The 6th Children's Rosary Rally
October 2, 2004

"Loving Jesus with Mary for Peace and Unity"

Today, children all across the nation will become one in praying for peace and unity in the country and the whole world, together with their bishops, priests, parents and teachers. Overseas families in 60 countries have been invited to join them. Children will gather in their respective parishes from 10:30 am to 12 noon to simultaneously pray the Holy Rosary and celebrate the Holy Eucharist.

This year, the Children's Rosary Rally coincides with the Feast of the Holy Guardian Angels and the National Eucharistic Marian Year.

The Children's Rosary Rally at Mary, Queen of Peace Shrine (EDSA Shrine) will be aired together with a video presentation on ABS-CBN ANC channel 21 today, from 4 pm to 5 pm.

Eucharistic and Marian Year Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
We solemnly inaugurate today a year of grace,
A year we dedicate to the Holy Eucharist
And to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Your Mother.
We need to experience as a nation
The transforming power of the Eucharist
And the loving care of Mary, our Mother.
For we are a wounded people,
Wounded by political conflicts and tribal wars,
Wounded by unjust socio-economic divisions,
Wounded by corruption and moral degeneration.

Lord Jesus Christ,
As often as we celebrate the Holy Eucharist,
We remember how much You love us,
Let the Eucharist help us to work together as a people.

So that in every home, barangay, town and city
All may live in a culture of peace, unity and renewal.
May the prayer of Mary, our Mother, accompany us
As we journey together in this year of grace
Toward national healing and reconciliation.

Lord Jesus Christ
We believe in the transforming power of the Eucharist
And we trust in the loving care of Mary, our Mother
Grant them in Your tender mercy
What we ask for in faith, hope and love. Amen.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us.
Saint Lorenzo Ruiz, pray for us.
That in all things, God may be glorified.

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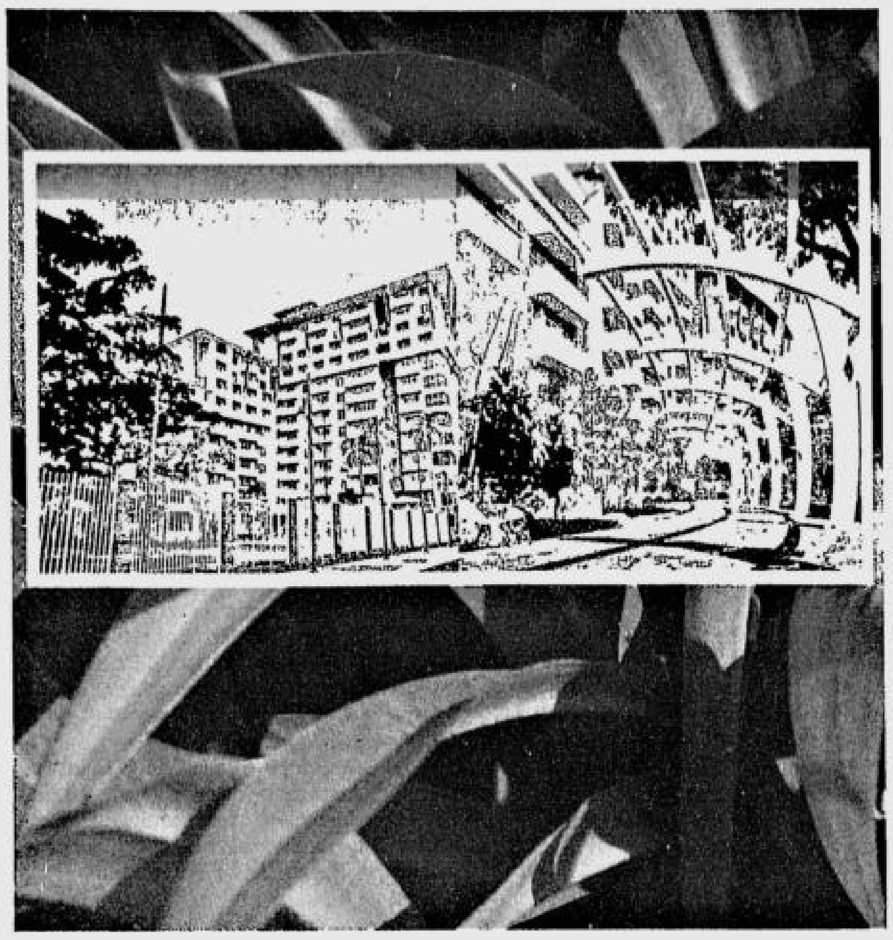


New garden units now being offered at Serendra.

Maybe it's the wide expanses of greenery. Maybe it's the meticulously designed, pan-culturally inspired low to mid rise residential units. Or maybe it's the marriage of these two things to create an oasis of serenity mere minutes away from the Makati Central Business District. Any which way though, what is clear is that more and more people are refusing to compromise accessibility and comfort when it comes to their homes. This can be seen plainly in the rapid sale of the garden units in Serendra Section A.

To capitalize on this demand, Ayala Land, Inc. is making sure that the soon to be launched new sections of Serendra will have as many garden-view units as possible. In addition, selected units will have unique features like wrap-around views, full-height glass in the master's bedroom, and even more spacious balconies.

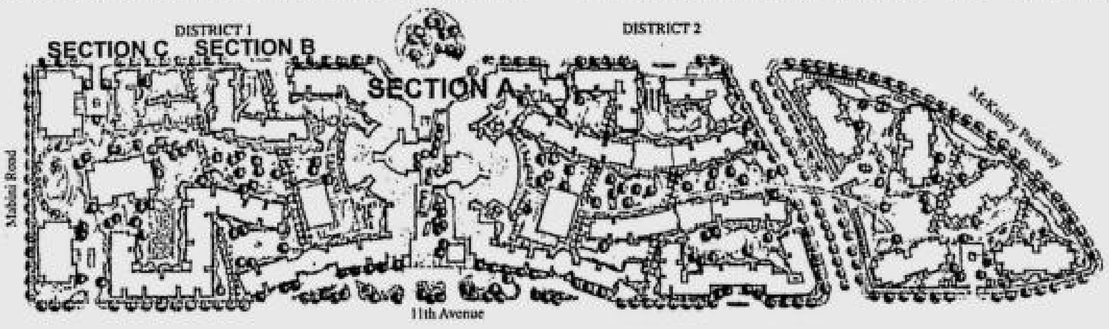
With about 65% of its 12 hectares devoted to greenery, Serendra offers quick relief from city life without having to leave the city.

Unlike other residential projects that seek to squeeze as many units as possible, Serendra is a one-of-a-kind residential community that offers residents room to breathe, walk, run, dance, love, and live.

Serendra is a unique hybrid of house and condo nestled in lush gardens, numerous walkways, wading pools, and play areas. It's more than a place to settle down. It's an ideal venue for a family to take root.

Allow yourself to get away from it all, if only for awhile. Visit the Serendra Pavillion at the 26th St. Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila.

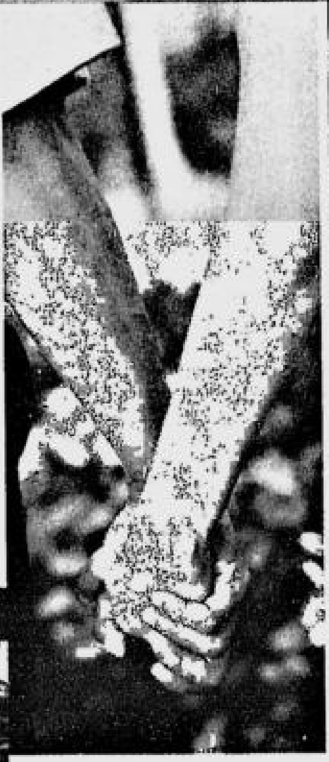
You may also call 848-5000, or email serendra@ayalaland.com.ph for inquiries.



Chilled drinks and warm laughter by the poolside. Moonlit strolls along cobblestone walks. The serenade of the breeze through the trees as you held hands. Postcard perfect moments all. And definitely not what you'd expect to find a mere 10 minutes from the heart of Makati. But here at Serendra, you'll find that you don't need to go far to get away from it all.

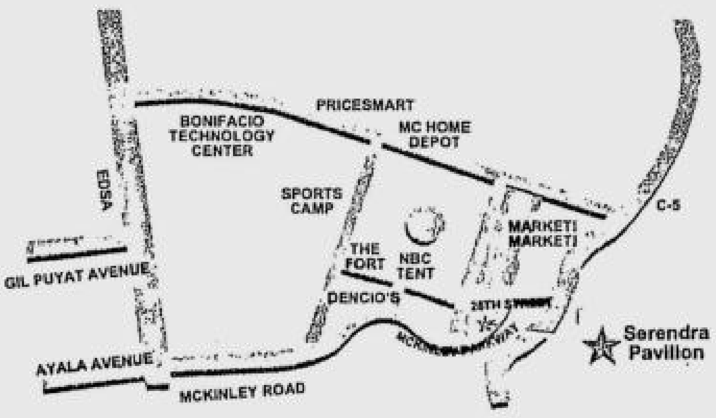
You'd write home about it, but then again, that's where you already are.

Built in the highly accessible Bonifacio Global City area, Serendra is 12 hectares of sprawling gardens, tree-lined walkways, wading pools, playgrounds, and charming residential units that marry European-inspired masterplanning and Filipino warmth and sensibility. You'll also find game rooms, restaurants, and multi-purpose courts. It's near several prestigious schools, hospitals, and some of the world's best shopping as well.



Where other residential properties force you to choose between accessibility and space, Serendra gives you both and more. It's far enough from the daily grind to make you forget the tedium of the rat race. It's near enough to make sure families have more time together. And spacious enough to make sure such moments are enjoyed to the full.

Serendra. We're sure you'd love to visit. But we'd rather you made yourself at home instead.



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GSIS chief got ₱11-M housing loan in 2 days

From page A1

practical than renting one in Metro Manila.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. called on Garcia to step down in view of the "massive unrest" over the GSIS supposed failure to meet the requirements of government employees.

Magsaysay called on President Macapagal-Arroyo to let Garcia go "and heed the call of the 1.5 million-strong government workforce who have suffered long enough..."

Palace for the defense

But Malacañang said the GSIS chief had so far done well in explaining his side on the controversies that the President wanted him to tackle point by point.

"Based on what we heard, and as far as these allegations [on the electronic card bidding won by Union Bank of the Philippines] are concerned, he has explained very well his side, especially with the help of his assistants. I think what he needs to do is continue to answer all questions hurled [at] him," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye told dzMM radio.

Bunye said the GSIS had been performing well: "[Its] income under Garcia is bigger compared to other administrations. We also heard from his assistants about the many projects undertaken during his term."

Nevertheless, Bunye stressed that Malacañang was not out to defend Garcia and that Ms Arroyo had yet to decide on whether he would be retained or replaced.

Not more than 5

Garcia said that with the pay cut he imposed on himself following the controversy over the salaries and perks of government "fat cats," he now had to take his P100,000 monthly loan payments from his "other sources" of income.

"Our housing loan [process] takes not more than five days. In fact, we ran an advertisement for that [as early as] 2002," he said.

Garcia said the GSIS had also lifted the ceiling for housing loans so long as the net pay and collateral of members made them viable for a loan application.

But Courage president Ferdinand Gaite continued to allege abuse of authority on the part of Garcia.

"GSIS members have suffered so much under Garcia's management of the pension fund. Without any increase in our salary, he implemented an increase in our monthly contribution from 9 percent to 12 percent," Gaite said.

He said Garcia further limited the benefits of GSIS members by implementing such policies as the premium-based policy.

"[His housing loan], even if he claims that it was done through regular GSIS channels and procedures, is still repugnant and irregular in as much as most of the members are having problems acquiring loans that are much smaller," Gaite said.

But Garcia said: "These people from Courage think that once they are able to borrow, they no longer need to pay [the GSIS]."

He said all members could get their just benefits from the GSIS if their premium payments were in order and they had no outstanding loan balance.

Support

Garcia has secured the support of a moderate group of government workers, a faction of the KMG, as well as the former members of the GSIS board of trustees including Leonora Vasquez-de Jesus, head of the Presidential Management Staff under President Joseph Estrada.

Robert Ibasco, speaker of the Joint Legislative-Executive Assembly of the KMG, said KMG president Albert Velasco was not authorized to lead any mass action or file cases against Garcia.

Floriño Ibañez, president of the Confederation of Government Employees' Organizations, issued a statement urging all government unions, associations and societies "to observe sobriety, civility and fair play."

Ibañez cited the reform programs introduced in the GSIS "which are designed to provide greater financial benefits and assistance to government employees and retirees."

The former GSIS trustees—former Justice Hermogenes Concepcion Jr., Fulgencio Factoran, Aida Nocete, Ellenita Martinez, De Jesus and Ibañez—whose terms expired only on Aug. 30, said in a statement: "We are confident that because of the very able and competent management of the system during the last three years, GSIS' viability and financial strength have been assured well into the future."

CHR case

But Courage members yesterday filed a case against Garcia before the Commission on Human Rights in connection with the violent dispersal of their protest rally at the GSIS Main Office in Pasay City on Sept. 28.

Gaite said that aside from the serious physical injuries that Courage members suffered, Garcia violated BP 880, or the law prohibiting the use of water cannons and tear gas during rallies.

"We will not allow Garcia's reign of terror and greed at the GSIS to persist," Gaite said. "At the Ombudsman, the CHR, the courts and in the streets, we will make sure that he is pinned down for his crimes against government employees."

The Department of Education employees' union also said public school teachers were being shabbily treated by Garcia.

"The ones worst hit by [his] incompetence are our public school teachers because they can't take out a loan anymore. They're coming all the way here to complain," said Domingo Alidon, president of the DepEd National Employees Union.

Alidon said they raised their complaints over a year ago but that the GSIS only took notice early this year.

He said the GSIS might have continued to ignore them if not for the May elections, wherein the teachers served as poll inspectors.

Service records a mess

"The elections have passed and until now our service records [with the GSIS] are still a mess," Alidon said.

With about 500,000 public school teachers and non-teaching personnel and an annual contribution of about P12 billion, the DepEd is the GSIS' biggest client group.

DepEd employees have demanded Garcia's resignation for allowing employee service records to deteriorate.

Their chief complaints are that the GSIS did not record their loan payments so that now they could not take out a new loan; that it had made a mess of their records; and that employees were not getting their policy contract despite the maturity of their insurance policy. *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño, Tina G. Santos and Dona Z. Pazzibugan*

GMA photog survives Cebu dive accident

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—A Malacañang photographer came close to drowning after taking underwater shots of President Macapagal-Arroyo scuba diving off the resort town of Moalboal around 89 km southwest of this city.

Jerry Carual, a photographer with the Office of the President, yesterday said that the mishap occurred between 1 and 2 p.m. on Thursday and that he was unconscious for 3-5 minutes.

Ms Arroyo, who inspected several project sites in southern Cebu on Wednesday, spent private time in Moalboal on Thursday. But Cebu Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia, who joined her and other national officials in the scuba diving activity, said she was not aware that a Malacañang photographer had been hurt.

Carual said he had to resurface after 45 minutes underwater because his oxygen tank was almost empty. He said that because he went underwater before the President did, he should also have been the first to resurface.

But he was hit by strong waves the moment he resurfaced, Carual said. He said he felt very tired and thought of unstrapping the oxygen tank from his back to use it for floating.

Carual said he had taken in some seawater and was struggling against the strong waves when he lost consciousness.

He was in the Coast Guard vessel named MV Pampanga when he came to.

Carual said he learned that it was the President's close-in security, Sgt. Christian Balajadia, who had taken him aboard a speedboat and then transferred him to the Coast guard vessel.

He said he was put in the MV Pampanga's decompression chamber for five hours, or from 2 to 7 p.m., and was under the care of a certain Doctor Gueb.

He will fly back to Manila tomorrow.

DOJ rules out amnesty

From page A1

vice-connected, but rather absorbed and in furtherance of the alleged crime of coup d'etat."

He said that, under the law, soldiers could be court-martialed only after a civilian court had ruled that their alleged crime was service-connected.

More than 300 soldiers were originally charged with coup d'etat. The DOJ, however, conducted another preliminary investigation and cleared 290. The Makati RTC subsequently dismissed the charges against the 290 for lack of evidence.

In March, the Supreme Court also issued a status quo order stopping court-martial proceedings against the 290 soldiers.

In a new statement yesterday, Bunye said: "Our unity and reconciliation efforts are premised on the principle of justice. Laws were violated and the military chain of command was breached by the mutiny and the officers themselves have expressed unconditional readiness to face the consequences of their actions."

Leniency

Bunye added: "At this point, what the President has offered as a healing measure is greater leniency for those who were misled by their superior into joining the mutiny. Discussions on other conciliatory measures are premature."

Bunye took pains to stress that the idea of giving amnesty to the Magdalo mutineers never came from Malacañang.

Speaking in Filipino, Bunye said: "You know, the amnesty proposal did not come from Malacañang, not from the President. It came from other sources—some members of Congress, some officials but it did not come from Malacañang."

"That is why it is not accurate to say Malacañang changed its decision with regard to amnesty because it truly was not discussed (during the President's meeting with the Magdalo officers)," Bunye said.

Trillanes' woes

Bunye said that during the closed-door meeting between Ms Arroyo and the Magdalo leaders, the officers asserted their willingness to face the consequences of their mutiny and Ms Arroyo had thanked them for that.

"But she said that the proceedings against the Magdalo officers will continue although their followers can count on leniency because they merely followed their officers," Bunye said in a dzBB interview.

"The cases against them must be concluded and we will wait for the results," Bunye said.

The bloodless mutiny fizzled out in less than 24 hours when the soldiers failed to rally support from the rest of the Armed Forces.

In spite his apology to Ms Arroyo, Navy Lt. Senior Grade Antonio Trillanes IV, a leader of the mutiny, will have to face graft charges filed against him last year by the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), Assistant Ombudsman Ernesto Nocos told the INQUIRER.

Case must go on

In a telephone interview, Nocos said that even in the remote possibility that Trillanes and five other officers involved in the failed coup were granted amnesty, the criminal complaint against him would remain.

"The apology is one thing, the evidence for criminal allegation is another thing," said Nocos.

"The case must go on. We have to bring the case to its rightful conclusion. The Ombudsman will not go slow on the investigation of the case [even if] he had apologized," he said.

Percival Antolin Rumbaoa, CIDG operative, has charged Trillanes with graft for allegedly failing to submit his statement of assets and liabilities for year 2001 and 2002 and acquiring vehicles and property in excess of the income of a Navy officer of his rank.

"The case filed with us will go on based on evidence," he said.

Trillanes airs his side

In a nine-page defense he submitted to the Ombudsman earlier this year, Trillanes admitted failing to submit his statement of assets and liabilities for the years 2001 and 2002, but he blamed the officials of the Bonifacio Naval Station for failing to "direct me to file my SAL."

In those years, he said, he was taking up a masteral course in public administration at the University of the Philippines.

He also admitted having a Nissan Terrano but said he acquired this on May 2, 2002 and not Jan. 1, 1996, as claimed by Rumbaoa, who reportedly submitted papers not authenticated by the Land Transportation Office.

Thus, Trillanes said, he was not obliged to declare it in his SAL earlier than the purchase date.

Besides, Trillanes said, the car was co-owned by him and his wife Arlene—an administrative officer of the Philippine Military Academy—who declared it in her SAL.

'Fabrication'

As to his alleged ownership of a 2001 Mitsubishi Pajero, Trillanes said this could have only been a product of "fabrication."

Trillanes also denied owning a motorcycle and said the vehicles in his possession were obtained "through my personal industry and soft loans from my family."

Trillanes denied there was any conflict of interest in his having been an incorporator in the FYI Research and Consulting Group Inc. since he became an incorporator "when I was on my study leave."

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Senators scold clueless cops over cell phone thefts

From page A1

fight phone thieves if they did not have a good monitoring system of the crime.

"I'm surprised you do not give much attention to the most common crime problem now. You don't have enough statistics, you don't have much knowledge about it," said Sen. Manuel Villar Jr., committee chair.

Villar, along with Senators Rodolfo Biazon, Juan Ponce Enrile and Jinggoy Estrada, questioned the figures presented by Chief Supt. Wilfredo Dulay, deputy director of the Philippine National Police Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management.

Dulay, who represented PNP Director General Edgar Aglipay at the hearing, said that based on police records, the volume of street crimes from March to August dropped to 14.4 percent compared to the same period last year. And of the total number of street crimes, he said, 31 percent were cases of robbery, and 11.5 percent, of theft.

Biazon said Dulay should have presented figures covering a 10-year period to allow the senators to determine whether the trend in street crimes was increasing or decreasing.

But Dulay said the PNP had just started to collate data on street crimes in 2003.

He also said phone snatching incidents nationwide numbered 310 from March to August 2003 and 248 in March to August 2004, prompting the senators to again wonder why the PNP statistics were so low.

The lawmakers were likewise annoyed when Dulay said the PNP had no data on the number of stolen cell phones it had recovered or how many deaths had resulted from phone robbery.

Most vibrant industry

Responding to the question of how many cell phones had been reported stolen to Smart Communications, lawyer Enrico Español gave no figure but said that based on the reported losses, there had been an increase.

Villar retorted that an increase in the number was "logical" given the growing number of users. "The telecom industry is the most vibrant one now," he noted.

He told Dulay he could not believe that the PNP was not giving much attention to cell phone theft.

"You can't address the problem of street crimes if you are not monitoring it," he said.

The senators' annoyance deepened when Chief Supt. Prospero Noble of the PNP National Capital Region office presented a varying figure.

Noble said phone thefts numbered 332 from January to August, and that many of the incidents happened in Quezon City and the other cities of Manila, Pasay and Caloocan.

The senators wondered why Noble's figure was higher than Dulay's. They were then told that victims were referred to the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) to have their stolen phones blocked.

Half a million

NTC Commissioner Ronald Solis said the agency received complaints of 25,492 phones lost or stolen in 2002; 16,954 in 2003; and 9,247 from January to September.

Asked by Villar to explain the drop in the number of phones stolen or lost, Solis said he could not say that the figures did indicate a drop. "It's possible that people are just not reporting it," he said.

Jun Lozada, executive director/founder of the Organisasyon ng mga Galit sa Magnanakaw (OGSM), told the committee that half a million phones were stolen nationwide every year.

Lozada said the OGSM made the estimate after monitoring that only 5 percent of the victims reported losing their phones to thieves. It surmised that the 25,000 victims who reported theft in 2002 made up this 5 percent.

He said the half million phones stolen annually in the country was not surprising given the United Kingdom's reported 700,000 cases every year.

Later, Lozada told reporters: "If there is any group that can do something about this, it's the mobile phone companies, not the police."

He said a law was needed to "force" mobile phone companies to act on the problem.

Lozada said phone theft was an "opportunistic" crime—meaning thieves did not necessarily plan to steal a phone but just took the opportunity when it came.

He said this was clear in the fact that many of the victims were women (72 percent) and children (8 percent).

Villanueva

The hearing also took up the case of Jose Villanueva of Today newspaper, who last week resisted holdup men who demanded his phone and was stabbed to death.

PNP officials said three suspects had been arrested. They said it could not have been a spur-of-the-moment crime because the suspects had previous criminal records.

The Senate resolution filed by Villar that called for an inquiry into cell phone theft took into account the fact that people were being killed for resisting thieves.

Villanueva's father, Luis, attended the hearing on the committee's invitation but did not speak.

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

US forces storm Samarra, kill 94; Iraq mourns 34 kids

SAMARRA, Iraq—The US military said 94 insurgents were killed on Friday as its troops and Iraqi forces thrust into Samarra town in a first effort to reclaim troublespots before Iraq's planned elections, while a shocked nation buried 34 children killed by car bombs.

In the United States, President George W. Bush and challenger John Kerry held their first preelection debate before the Nov. 2 ballot, with Kerry terming the invasion of Iraq "a colossal error" and Bush reiterating "The world is better off without Saddam Hussein."

Some instant polls straight after said Kerry had beaten the president. A Gallup poll for CNN gave Kerry a 46 percent to 37 percent win over Bush.

Iraq's hostage saga showed no letup, with Jakarta confirming on Friday that two Indonesian women were among the 10 latest people to be kidnapped. Al-Jazeera television said the two were seized alongside six Iraqis and two Lebanese working for an electrical equipment firm.

In the aftermath of Thursday car bombings in which the 34 children died, the group of suspected al-Qaida operative Abu Mussab al-Zarqawi claimed, via its website, responsibility for three suicide bombings in Iraq.

The authenticity of the claim on www.ansarnet.ws/vb/ could not be verified.

The Samarra operation, 125 km north of Baghdad, started before dawn, with the US military saying its forces had seized the city hall and police stations.

The offensive followed vows by the interim government to win back swathes of lawless territory in the Sunni Muslim triangle before November to prepare for the January poll.

"In response to repeated and unprovoked attacks by anti-Iraqi forces (US military terminology for insurgents), Iraqi Security Forces and Multinational Forces secured the government and police buildings in Samarra... on Oct. 1," the military said.

A US military spokesperson said 94 insurgents had been killed and one wounded. He gave no details of any casualties on the US-led coalition side.

The figure for the wounded contrasted with an earlier statement from a doctor in the town. Dr. Khaled Ahmed at Samarra's main hospital said: "We have received 20 killed and 35 wounded in the fighting."

At least three US soldiers were wounded in the fighting and five insurgents were detained, a military spokesperson said.

The governor of Salaheddin province, where Samarra is located, cautioned on Thursday that fresh fighting risked plunging surrounding towns into violence. *AFP*

IRAQI mourners carry the casket of resident Ahmed Chasib in the Sadr City section of Baghdad, Iraq, Oct. 1. Chasib was killed in an overnight air strike by US forces, according to local witnesses. AP

Pope to beatify Mel Gibson's mystic 'muse'

VATICAN CITY—Never one to shrink from criticism, Pope John Paul is again putting controversial figures on the road to sainthood, including Austria's last emperor and a mystic nun who inspired Mel Gibson's film on Christ's passion.

With Sunday's ceremony in St. Peter's Square, the ailing 84-year-old Roman Catholic leader will have beatified some 1,340 people, more than all his predecessors combined.

The Pope will confer beatification—the last step before Roman Catholic sainthood—on five people on Sunday. The two most controversial could not have been more different.

One was born in a wooden farmhouse with no running water and the other in a castle. But both have ignited as much passion after death as they did in life.

Anne Catherine Emmerick, a sickly German mystic nun who lived from 1774 to 1824, has been called "Mel's Muse." It was her book, "The Dolorous Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ," that gave Gibson some of the most grisly details.

Although Gibson said his hit film "The Passion of the Christ" was true to the Gospels, he clearly turned to what the "Maid of Muenster" saw while gripped in visionary ecstasy.

The episode where Mary mops up her son's blood after his sadistic scourging is pure Emmerick. No Gospel mentions a hooded devil inciting Jews as they demanded Christ's crucifixion or following him as he carried his cross.

Jewish groups condemned the film, saying it would spur new forms of visceral anti-Semitism. They now fear that moving Emmerick closer to the glories of the altars, as sainthood is known, will only make matters worse.

"I think the timing of this is unfortunate and particularly damaging," said Rabbi Gary Bretton-Granatoor, director of inter-faith activities for the Anti-Defamation League.

"Had this happened five or 10 years ago, only those in the know would have noticed. But now, after Gibson's film, Emmerick's anti-Semitic writings have spread to a much wider audience," he said by telephone from New York.

Jewish leaders say the film and Emmerick's new popularity will resurrect deicide charges against Jews, which had been officially repudiated by the Second Vatican Council in 1965.

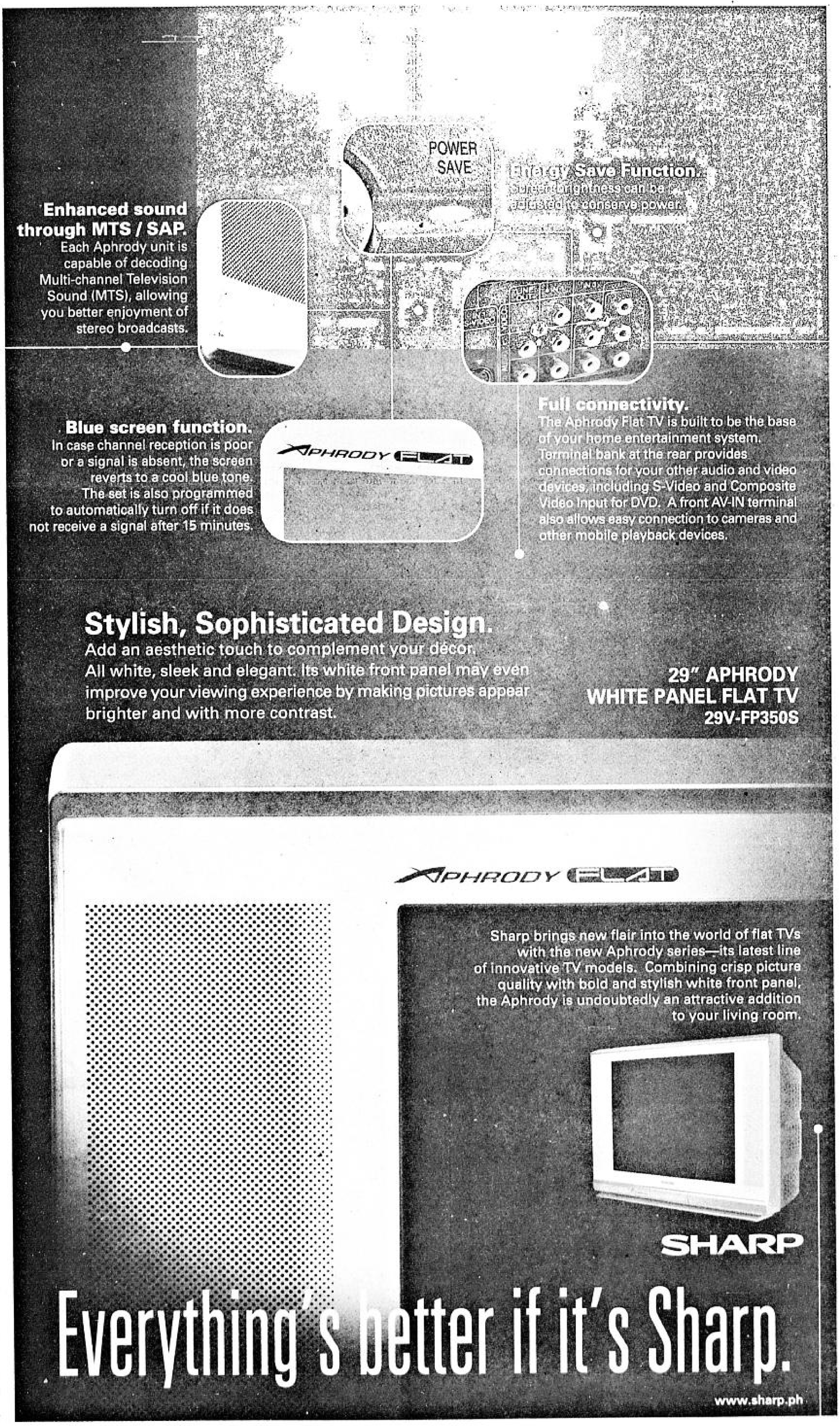
Emmerick was an invalid by the time she was 14 and had the stigmata, the unexplained bleeding of the hands and feet similar to the wounds of the crucified Christ.

The beatification of Karl I, last emperor of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, has caused an uproar in Vienna, with critics denouncing him for his army's use of poison gas during World War One or lampooning him as "the patron saint of losers."

It has also opened the Austrian Church, which has been rocked by a homosexual scandal at a seminary near Vienna, to public ridicule for saying he performed a miracle by healing a Brazilian nun of her varicose veins and leg sores.

Karl, a devout Catholic who mounted the throne in 1916, made futile efforts the following year for peace talks with France.

Forced out at the end of the war in 1918, he went into exile first in Switzerland—from where he twice tried to retake power in Hungary—and then Portugal, where he died in 1922. *Reuters*



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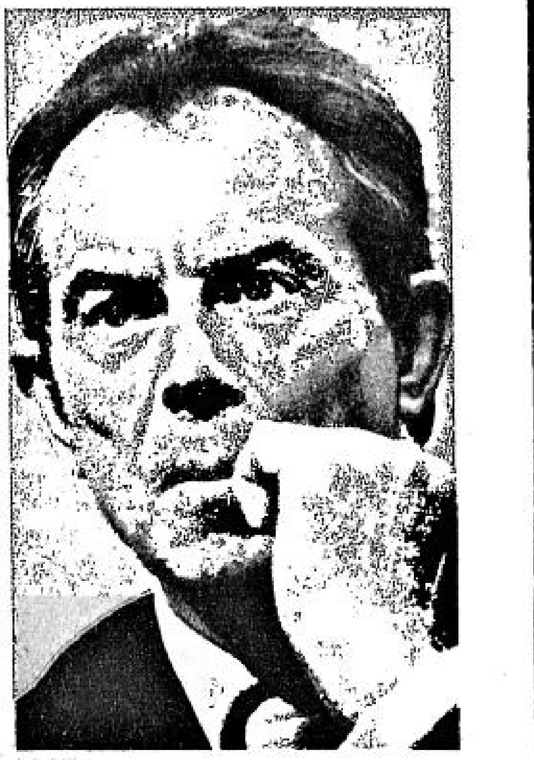
Blair faces heart op, vows to lead on



BLAIR

LONDON—British Prime Minister Tony Blair went to hospital on Friday to correct recurrent heart palpitations, but he vowed to serve a full third term in office if he wins an election expected next year.

"I feel fine," Blair told a barrage of reporters as he left his Downing Street home smiling and waving.

Blair's office said the procedure was routine and he would be back at work early next week.

The prime minister has frequently looked haggard in the past 18 months, the toughest of his career with a country divided over war in Iraq and his trust ratings plunging.

In an unprecedented move, Blair set his own departure timetable, saying he would not seek a fourth term in office.

"Do I wish to serve a full term? The answer to that is 'yes'. Do I want to go on and on and on? The answer to that is 'no'," he said. "I wouldn't want to put myself forward at a fourth election, I don't think the country would want me to."

A British election is expected in May next year and polls suggest Blair is odds on to win again.

His party won a crucial parliamentary election on Friday in Hartlepool, northeast England, with a much reduced majority.

Blair's main Conservative opponents were beaten into a humiliating fourth place by a fringe party that advocates withdrawal from the European Union. Analysts said they looked in no shape to challenge the prime minister next year.

"The one party people are singly not voting for in large numbers is the Conservative party. That is the central fact of British politics at the moment," said Anthony King, professor of politics at Essex University.

Blair, 51, had heart palpitations late last year and suffered a "mild recurrence" in August, his office said. He will stay in hospital overnight, rest over the weekend and be back to work next week—for a schedule that includes a trip to Africa.

"I've got this routine procedure on my heart which is connected with the type of thing that happened last year," Blair told television networks. "It's not particularly alarming but it's something you should just get fixed."

Blair insistence he would not leave the political stage any time soon may be tough news for his powerful finance minister Gordon Brown, long hungry for the top job in government.

But analysts said Blair might eventually become a lame duck leader and quit sooner.

Blair said Brown would make a "superb" leader whose chances of leadership would be unharmed if the incumbent hung on for another term. "I don't think it rules Gordon out in any shape or form at all," he said.

Rumors have circulated for years that Blair and Brown struck a deal he would one day stand aside for the Chancellor of the Exchequer. But Brown supporters expected their man to be in charge well before the timetable Blair has now spelled out.

This year, Blair has sometimes looked weary and drawn as the relentless pressure of justifying his decision to go to war in Iraq, and the violent aftermath, took its toll.

Earlier this year, there were even rumors that he had considered standing down, something he has since firmly denied.

Blair's cardiologist, Punit Ramrakha, said the procedure—the technical term for which is catheter ablation—was low risk. It does not amount to full surgery and will be carried out under local anaesthetic.

"The recovery time is short, with patients able to return to work and undertake full activities within two to three days," he said.

Analysts said Blair's pledge had reinforced his position in the short-term but he might have difficulty serving until 2009, the likely time of the election after next, with a looming leadership change overshadowing his final years in power.

"I think he would become a progressively lamer duck towards the end of the third term," Peter Kellner, chairman of pollsters YouGov told Reuters. "I would expect him to resign well before the end of the next term." *Reuters*

WORLDBRIEFS

Gaza's bloodiest day

JABALYA, Gaza—Twenty-eight Palestinians and three Israelis were killed on Thursday, Gaza's bloodiest day in four years of conflict, as Israel's army struck back after a rocket attack killed two Israeli children at a border town. Prime Minister Ariel Sharon approved an intensified offensive to re-occupy Palestinian-run parts of northern Gaza and stop rocket firing that has persisted despite raids and given fuel to critics of his plan to relinquish the territory. In the deadliest incident of the spiraling violence, an Israeli tank shell killed seven Palestinians near a school in Jabalya, Gaza's largest refugee camp, as Israeli forces thrust deep into the militant stronghold for the first time. Israeli troops raiding northern Gaza killed 21 other people, including militants and bystanders. Medics said about 150 Palestinians were wounded. Earlier on Thursday, gunmen ambushed and killed two Israeli soldiers and a woman out jogging. A Hamas rocket attack on the southern Israeli town of Sderot on Wednesday killed two Israeli children, aged 2 and 4, visiting their grandparents on the eve of the Jewish festival of Sukkot. *Reuters*

Hostages in Iraq

JAKARTA—Two Indonesian women working for a British company in Iraq were among 10 people kidnapped by an Islamic militant group, officials in Jakarta confirmed Friday. Indonesian foreign ministry officials said the women, who were pictured wearing Muslim headscarves in video shot by the militants and aired on Arabic television, were from Jakarta. "They are Indonesians," spokesperson Marty Natalegawa said. Senior foreign ministry official Ferry Adamhar confirmed the women's identities as Rosidah and Rafikan. Adamhar told Elshinta radio that the women were working for a British company but it was not known in what capacity. The Indonesian women were captured alongside six Iraqis and two Lebanese working for an electrical equipment firm, Al-Jazeera television said. Four of the presumed captives, all men, were shown in the video, with the captors pointing machine-guns at them. The channel later aired more footage showing the two women. *AFP*

Jakarta bomber named

JAKARTA—Indonesian police on Friday announced a breakthrough in the hunt for militants behind last month's attack on the Australian Embassy in Jakarta, naming the suicide bomber who delivered the deadly blast. Police chief Da'i Bachtiar said DNA tests comparing samples found at the scene of the blast with tissue and blood from suspects' families confirmed the bomber's identity as Heri Kurniawan, alias Golun. "We have a very strong conviction that this person carried the bomb and died in the explosion," Bachtiar told reporters. Nine other people were killed and more than 180 were injured in the Sept. 9 attack, which has been blamed in the al-Qaida-linked Jemaah Islamiyah group. *AFP*

EU immigrant camps

SCHEVENINGEN, Netherlands —European Union justice and interior ministers on Friday weighed a contentious proposal to set up immigrant processing camps outside Europe—a program Germany said was necessary to weed out illegal immigrants from legitimate asylum seekers. German Interior Minister Otto Schily was outlining the proposal to create transit centers in North Africa and elsewhere on foreign soil. "We need to think about preventing illegal immigration more forcefully," Schily told reporters Thursday, but refused to elaborate on his proposal before briefing his EU colleagues. "We either can wait until the problems come to Europe... or we go actively after the problems and try to solve them. I am for the latter." The debate over the camps dominated two days of talks on how European Union nations can cooperate to come up with common policies on immigration and asylum. *AP*

Docs examine Pinochet

SANTIAGO, Chile—Three court-appointed doctors examined Chile's former military dictator Augusto Pinochet on Thursday, a key step that will decide whether the 88-year-old general will stand trial for human rights abuses. The doctors' reports, due by Oct. 8, will assess Pinochet's mental health and will be used by an investigating judge to decide whether to indict him in one specific case. "The exams took place in the best way possible and with maximum transparency and we are waiting for the reports," Juan Guzman, a human rights judge, told reporters. Guzman is probing Pinochet's role in 19 deaths in the 1970s under Operation Condor, an intelligence-sharing network of South American military regimes who helped each other hunt down dissidents. *Reuters*

Dictionary

Russia delivers crucial nod to Kyôto

MOSCOW—The Russian government approved the Kyoto Protocol on Thursday, giving decisive support to the long-delayed, climate change treaty that should allow it to come into force worldwide.

President Vladimir Putin's cabinet decided to send the 1997 UN pact to the State Duma lower house, dominated by Kremlin supporters, for ratification. Opponents maintained it would harm the economy and do little to protect the environment.

Victorious backers of Kyoto, which orders cuts in greenhouse gas emissions to slow global warming, made clear they believed it would have no effect on the environment or the economy and that the decision was politically motivated.

The European Union hailed Moscow's decision and seized the moment to urge Washington, whose rejection of the pact in 2001 left it dependent on Russia's approval, to rethink its position.

"The fate of the Kyoto protocol depends on Russia. If we... rejected ratification, we would become the ones to blame (for its failure)," Deputy Foreign Minister Yuri Fedotov told the Cabinet meeting.

A UN spokesperson said Secretary General Kofi Annan welcomed the Russian move and "takes this occasion to remind the entire international community of the need to bring a greater sense of urgency to this crucial issue of human security and well-being."

Russia, which accounts for 17 percent of world emissions, has held the key to Kyoto's success since the US pullout.

Kyoto becomes binding once it has been ratified by 55 percent of the signatories, which must altogether account for 55 percent of developed countries' carbon dioxide emissions.

The pact, so far ratified by 122 nations, has met the first condition. But they account for only 44 percent of emissions.

Russia initially prevaricated on ratification. But in May Putin backed it in exchange for EU agreement on the terms of Moscow's admission to the World Trade Organization.

"We warmly welcome the decision," a European Commission spokesperson said in Brussels. He added that the EU was encouraging Washington to review its attitude to the pact.

Environmentalists and experts were equally positive.

"Now he (Putin) can go down in history as the savior (of Kyoto)," said Benito Mueller, an expert for British-based think-tank the Royal Institute for International Affairs.

Thursday's meeting left unanswered the question of when parliament could practically debate ratification. The head of the Duma's international affairs committee, Konstantin Kosachev, suggested that was unlikely before the end of the year.

There is no time limit for the Cabinet to send a ratification request to the Duma. Interfax said ministries linked to the environment had been given three months to work out practical measures arising from Russia's obligations.

Proponents of Kyoto say that apart from improving the environment worldwide, the pact would force Russia to upgrade industry to new standards and help it earn billions of dollars selling excess quotas for gas emissions to polluters abroad.

Opponents said Russia would lose out.

"The Academy of Science confirms its position that the protocol is not effective and gives us no advantages," the head of the academy's institute on climate change and ecology, Yuri Izrael, told the Cabinet meeting.

Putin's economic adviser Andrei Illarionov warned that new environmental standards would cost industry more and undermine the Kremlin's plan to double gross domestic product in 10 years.

"Many economic calculations show that if the protocol is ratified, the doubling of GDP becomes impossible in the next 10 years," Illarionov said.

But Economic Development Minister German Gref, Illarionov's rival for Putin's ear, said that when making the decision the Cabinet aimed at setting a good international precedent rather than focusing on economic or environmental concerns. *Reuters*

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Terrorism

EDITORIAL

EVER since the gangland-style murder of Arturo Tabara Sunday at the parking lot of ShoeMart Fairview, everyone from his friends and family to the police has been pointing at the New People's Army as his most likely executioner.

"The killing bore the signature of the NPA," one senior police official was saying. Police investigators noted that Tabara's assassination was carried out with the same deadly efficiency as the earlier killings of Filemon Lagman and Romulo Kintanar. Like Tabara, both were erstwhile top leaders of the Communist Party of the Philippines until they had a falling out with the rebel group. Another senior police officer said the evidence they had gathered indicated that Tabara was killed by the same group of highly trained assassins that gunned down Kintanar, the former chief of the NPA, in January last year inside a restaurant located a couple of hundred meters from the Quezon City Hall

Comrades of Tabara accused exiled CPP founder Jose Maria Sison of ordering the killing. "Joma wants to silence dissenters," one of them said. Tabara's wife Veronica said they had been warned that he was in the CPP-NPA's order of battle, which "meant they would punish him with death."

The NPA has not done anything to disabuse the public of such suspicion. Not only has it not denied the accusation, but its spokesperson Gregorio Rosal has admitted that an NPA unit had long been sent out to arrest Tabara so that he could be tried before a "people's court" for numerous offenses "against the people of Negros and Panay and the revolutionary movement." Rosal theorized that Tabara could have been shot to death when the NPA arresting unit sensed that he was "armed and dangerous."

Although Rosal has said he was still waiting for confirmation that the NPA made the hit, his vehement denunciation of Tabara's alleged crimes against the people and the CPP already sounds like an admission of guilt. But this time the CPP leadership is no longer gloating. In contrast, Rosal could hardly contain his glee after the Kintanar killing, citing it as an example of "revolutionary justice." Then he boasted that "all traitors to the revolution cannot escape from retribution; sooner or later every traitor will pay for his blood debts to the people and the revolution."

Why the restraint and the seeming reluctance to admit responsibility for Tabara's killing? Why the lame attempt to pass it off as an act of self-defense?

If there is anything the CPP leadership wants very badly, it is to have the terrorist tag withdrawn. That action taken by the United States government has not only cut off the pension and other privileges Sison had been getting from the Dutch government but also caused foreign fund contributions to the rebel movement to dry up.

The Tabara killing obviously does not put them closer to that objective. For no matter what he did against the CPP cause, Tabara could hardly be classified as a combatant.

Granted that Tabara had served as a military spy even while he was in the CPP, as Rosal claimed, what about Stephen Ong? What blood debts had he accumulated? Is it now a crime against the people and the revolution to fall in love with a former comrade's daughter?

The 19-year-old Silliman University student was with Tabara when he was shot to death. But his killers cannot claim he was an accidental victim or that his killing was in the nature of collateral damage. He took three bullets to Tabara's two. That was not an accidental death. It was cold-blooded and brutal murder. It was a terrorist act.

Rosal and his comrades here and abroad know it. That is why they cannot come out and claim responsibility for the twin kill outright.

Coming chaos

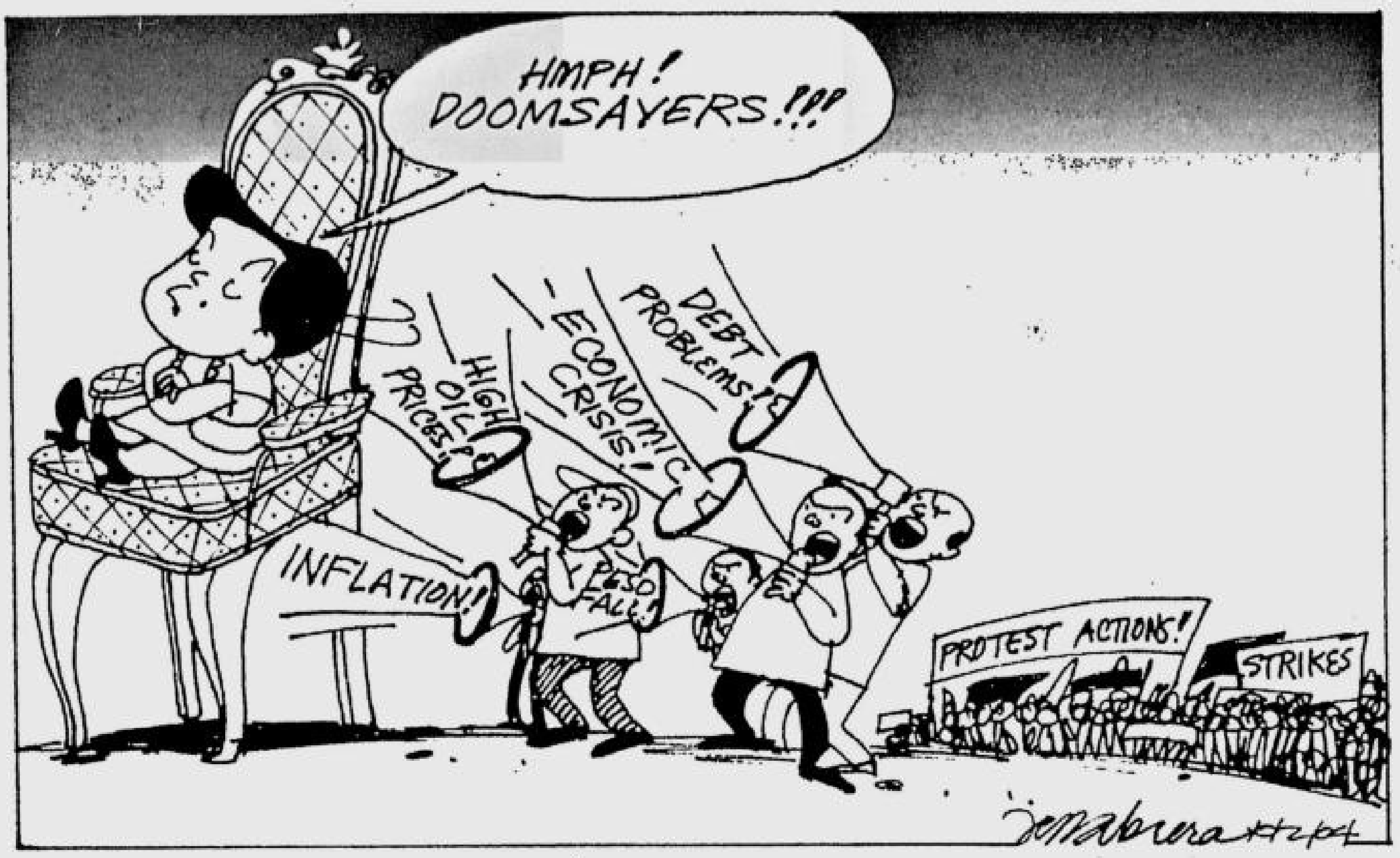
FOREIGN COMMENT

AS the Antarctic ice is melting faster, rich countries, the only ones able to undertake efficient measures, including the United States, maintain an attitude of indifference. The reason for this is the high economic cost of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It was because of this that the United States rejected the Kyoto Protocol.

Meanwhile, rising sea levels threaten the small Pacific Ocean archipelago of Tuvalu, and houses in Alaska built on the melting permafrost are beginning to crack. No big catastrophes are in sight in the short term, but it is certain that chaos in the coming decades can only be avoided if measures are undertaken now.

Even if the United States finally decides to sign the Kyoto Protocol, it will not be enough. Kyoto is already an insufficient answer to a problem much bigger than was feared.

O Globo (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)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The folly of legislative investigations

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

NOW that the new Congress has distributed its committee chairs among its favored members, you can expect them to start showing off again in the exercise of their right of legislative investigation. This is now expressly limited by the Constitution, but that is no hindrance to legislators who believe that this power is an opportunity for them to impress their constituents and the public in general. Many of them believe in their supposed abilities (supposed by them) as experienced cross-examiners and feel the people should know about their hidden talent.

The art of cross-examination is something that eludes even the most experienced lawyers as one of them demonstrated at the Estrada impeachment trial when he tried to catch a witness in a lie. The witness was too clever for him, however, and it was he who retreated with his reputation in tatters. But such humiliation does not intimidate our pretentious lawmakers, who believe that their election entitles them to act foolishly in the once august halls of Congress. Thus, you can expect them to ask the most stupid questions, and in the most pompous manner, to the hushed admiration of their *bakya* admirers.

I do not include all the members of Congress in this observation, for there are indeed a goodly number of them who deserve the respect of the public. But they still constitute a small minority of the generally bungling roster that is a disgrace to the Filipino people. The trouble with the legislature is that all its members have an equal right to speak, even foolishly, and each of them may invoke parliamentary immunity to escape deserved punishment for his (or her) shameful conduct. Their language may be "propesterous," but they are the elect of the people whose voice is, in most cases, described sacrilegiously as the voice of God.

The power of legislative investigation used to be one of the most effective fund-raising schemes of the old Congress, an engine for malice of its less than worthy members, or at the very least, an opportunity for grandstanding. The Constitution now wisely lays down express restrictions to prevent its abuse, to wit, it must be conducted in aid of legislation, in accordance with pre-existing rules of procedure, and with proper respect for those attending or affected by it. Still, the power continues to be exercised with little regard for public sentiment and public funds.

In fairness, some notable legislative investigations have redounded to the public good by exposing and correcting irregularities. A memorable example was the probe of the purchase of the Tambobong-Buenavista estate for which Congress appropriated P400,000 to whom the witness Jean Arnault could not remember paying; he was, for his forgetfulness, held in contempt of the Senate and ordered imprisoned indefinitely until his memory improved. (Whatever happened to him?)

Other investigations have not been as significant or even serious. One recalls with amusement the investigation of the so-called Brunei beauties, the scrape of the NCAA basketball players, the non-admission by a Catholic university of a sexy starlet who made a sensational personal appearance in Congress, and the alleged unhealthy processing of *taho*. Only recently, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, chair of the committee on labor employment and human resources, investigated the employment of prostitutes and their congressional customers who had so cheapened the legislature.

While these investigations were taking place, the national economy continued to plummet, peace and order deteriorated, and graft and corruption increased on all levels of the government.

There are two legislative investigations I have followed with keen interest that have produced exactly nothing to date. The first is the Lacson investigation that was begun three years ago and is still on indefinite hold today. The other is the investigation of noise pollution by the airplanes flying over Merville, where I live, and other neighboring subdivisions in Parañaque.

The investigation of Lacson by three Senate committees was concluded on Sept. 5, 2001, and was calendared by majority floor leader Loren Legarda for deliberation by the Senate plenary several times. It was blocked as many times, the last by Sen. Tito Sotto, until Legarda herself joined the opposition. Legarda and Sotto and Sen. Robert Barbers, the chair of the lead investigating committee, are no longer in the Senate, and the Lacson case is now in rigor mortis.

The Blue Ribbon Committee that investigated the intrusion of the noisy airplanes received the solemn promise of the Air Transportation Office to limit their flights between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. daily, but we are still awakened by these nuisances at 5 a.m. or even earlier, and on Sundays too. We have complained to Sen. Joker P. Arroyo, the committee chair, but even he seems to be powerless against the owners of Cebu Pacific and Air Philippines, who must be untouchable. So how about us ordinary citizens of Merville in our besieged and defenseless area? We are expendable.

And so another Congress has begun (and recessed), and the comedy continues.

What women want

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

"MOTHER knows best" is the conventional wisdom when it comes to family matters. Those who, with the eternal confidence of youth, thought that their mothers were just not with it and ignored their advice (nagging, they would call it), generally end up wishing that they had paid a little more attention.

The government and the Catholic Church seem to be making the mistake that those cocky, overconfident children made. They have been treating mothers in particular, and women in general, as if they didn't have all their marbles on an issue in which these institutions have no comparative advantage as far as expertise or even hands-on experience is concerned: the size of her family. And it is clear to anyone who looks at the figures that they have cause to regret their attitude. Unfortunately, the two institutions seem to continue to be blind to their error, to the country's great cost.

Let's start with our population growth rates. From the 1960s up to 1990, population growth showed a (slowly) decelerating path, from 3.08 percent between 1960 and 1970, to 2.71 percent between 1970 and 1980, to 2.35 percent between 1980 and 1990. But between 1990 and 2000, the deceleration stopped. Population grew by 2.36 percent, or at roughly the same pace as in the previous decade. Compare this performance with say, South Korea, Thailand and Indonesia, which (this from Herrin and Pernia, in the Balisacan and Hill book "The Philippine Economy: Development, Policies and Challenges") had similar high growth rates in the 1960s and 1970s, but had brought these down to 0.9 percent, 1.0 percent, and 1.3 percent, respectively, in the 1990s.

In the mid-1980s, it was said that the Philippines was misplaced in Asia because its performance was more in tune with Latin American countries (we were the only country in this part of the world that had a debt crisis, which was being experienced by the whole of Latin America). Now, with regard to population matters, the Philippines looks like it is misplaced in Asia as well, its performance being more in line with that of Middle Eastern and North African countries (average population growth rate or p.g.r. at 2.4 percent) than with those in East Asia and the Pacific (average 1.2 percent). It is also behaving more like a low-income (average p.g.r. 2.1 percent, lower even than ours) developing country than a middle-income developing country where it is classified (average p.g.r. 1.3 percent).

That our population growth rates did not decelerate in the 1990s—and there is no reason to believe that it has started decelerating in the current decade—clearly reflects the failure of our population policy (if any). As a result, the negative impact of the deepening fiscal crisis has been exacerbated, as illustrated by what is happening in education.

As a percentage of GDP, the budget for education has been shrinking, from 2.9 percent in 2001 to 2.3 percent in 2004. The amount allocated has grown in nominal terms, but this has been eaten up by inflation, so that in 2004, the education pie, in real terms, actually contracted (nominal growth rate of 2.9 percent, inflation rate of 4.5 percent, therefore real growth rate of 1.6). With population growing at the rate of 2.4 percent, that means that real per capita expenditures on education have contracted by 4 percent. Which in turn translates into fewer books, equipment, classrooms, teachers, etc., the bottom line being an even poorer quality of education than the one currently obtaining. The long-term implications on the quality of the labor force—and on their income-earning potential—are terrifying.

So, what do mothers and their wishes have to do with all this? Well, the principal source of a fast-growing population is a high total fertility rate (TFR), the number of births per woman. It was 6 births per woman in 1973, 5.1 in 1983, 4.1 in 1993, 3.7 in 1998, and 3.5 percent in 2003—figures which speak for themselves. Again, Philippine TFR is more similar to Middle East and North Africa (3.7 in 1997) than to East Asia and the Pacific (2.1).

But get this: While actual TFR in 1998 was 3.7, what the women wanted, as per the 1998 National Demographic and Health Survey, was 2.7. In other words, if the women had their druthers, they would rather have had one fewer child than they actually had. The 1998 Survey results (the 2003 Survey has not been completely analyzed yet) showed that not only did half (51.4 percent) of women want no more children, but also that of the births in the five years preceding the survey, more than one-fourth (26.9 percent) were not wanted at the time (the women would have preferred that they had been spaced further), and almost one-fifth (18.2 percent) were not wanted at all.

Has the government, has the Catholic Church (it is noteworthy that the imams in this country have issued a *fatwah* strongly encouraging family planning, including both artificial and natural methods of contraception, focusing on the welfare of mother and child) listened to the women? Obviously not. Not only, it seems, are the means for preventing or spacing pregnancies inaccessible to these women, but to add insult to injury, the available methods (or those that are encouraged) are not effective.

This is literally a deadly combination. Maternal mortality rates in the country are four times that of Thailand, and it is estimated that almost one-third of those are abortion-related; Desperate women have to take matters in their own hands, because they get no attention or the wrong kind of attention.

Remember, mothers know best.

Kerry won points in first round

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

LIKE the rest of the world, I sat up and watched the first of three presidential debates between US candidates George W. Bush and John Kerry. The debate revolved around Iraq and homeland security, over which issue Bush has sprinted ahead in various polls with over 50 points versus 37 points for Kerry. This issue has been conceded by pollsters to Bush, but in the debate, Kerry came across rather strongly, promising to finish the war there, while Bush realistically couldn't put a "deadline" to the pullout of troops. As expected, Bush, as the incumbent, was on the defensive. But he tried to counter by repeatedly hammering on the campaign line that Kerry was indecisive and wishy-washy on the Iraq issue. The world awaits the poll results on that first debate, but I'd say Kerry won points there. The next debate will be tougher for Bush who is lagging behind on the economic issue.

* * *

World oil prices rose to a record price $50.47 a barrel last Tuesday and sadly experts don't know at what price it would stabilize. As everyone knows, the world price of oil is affected by a number of events in confluence or alignment in the largest oil-producing countries. Some weeks back, it was the financial woes of Russia's largest oil company, Yukos, that sent prices soaring. This was followed by the flare-up of hostilities in Iraq involving the militant groups there, and the political instability of the rule of President Hugo Chavez in Venezuela. Last Tuesday's record price was attributed to a Nigerian rebel group's demand for a stop to oil production. All these events contribute to the disruption of oil production, which, in turn, leads to higher prices.

* * *

A spokesperson of an energy research group abroad was quoted as saying, "The market is much tighter today than it's been since 1973 (when the oil crisis first emerged). Unlike in 1973, 1979 or 1990, the market today is going through a demand shock, not a political shock."

Obviously that demand shock comes from newly industrialized countries such as China and India, which aggravated the traditional high demand at this time for winter stock-piling in the temperate countries. But the spokesperson also said something both revealing and alarming for small countries in Asia such as the Philippines (our oil consumption runs up to between 300,000 and 350,000 barrels a day), whose economies could suffer sharp economic growth cuts if the rise in oil prices were to be sustained. "The market is not thinking long term," he said. "It's thinking day to day." Meaning, supply is dependent on the politically destabilizing events in the oil-producing nations, and there seems to be a new one each day.

* * *

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit called up to thank this columnist for taking up the cudgels for him against Thai Sen. Mechai Veravaidya, who had castigated him and the Arroyo administration for "lacking the will" to distribute condoms to control the spread of AIDS and the burgeoning population. I said Veravaidya ought to go home and confront the terrible situation in his country, where the condom campaign appears to have encouraged even more prostitution. Over a million people are believed to be HIV positive in Thailand, a situation that has alarmed the World Health Organization.

Dayrit stressed that each culture has to be considered. If the wanton distribution of condoms works well for Thailand, as Veravaidya paints it to be, in RP, Dayrit said, such an approach cannot be effective as it's too direct and could go against religious sensibilities. What will work better for our people, he opined, is a multi-sectoral, multi-agency information and education campaign not just about AIDS but also other diseases such as TB, measles, etc. at the barangay level. Dayrit said the Department of Health has been doing this and will push it even more. He recalled that he worked at the barangay level back in the late 1970s as a fresh medical graduate and he's confident he knows it pretty well.

* * *

The recent spate of killings of Filipino journalists has caught the attention of international media groups. One of them, the Asia Pacific desk of the Paris-based Reporters Sans Frontiers (Reporters Without Boundaries) opined through its chief, Vincent Brossel, that the murders can be linked to the Philippine political system. Brossel was quoted as saying, "Corruption and the use of violence are unfortunately part of the political game and culture. Local leaders are sometimes linked to the Mafia groups, so they are ready to use the same intimidation techniques." Brossel recommended that Manila strengthen the police and give enough resources to the justice department to be independent, fair and efficient. Good suggestion.

* * *

An earlier item here related that during the latter part of the Smokey Mountain hearing where former President Fidel Ramos testified, Sen. Miriam Santiago received a note, perhaps from a media person, informing her of the deadline for stories. She was then seen leaving the room and I quoted someone else's observation that she "converted that exit into a walkout." John Paul Antes, a member of Santiago's staff, denied this, asserting that it was her staff that raised an inquiry with her. He also said the senator's husband, Jun Santiago, was there to support his wife but never set foot on the media center, and that she left the hearing "because she knew that she would not be getting answers from Mr. Ramos responsive to the issues raised." Antes said FVR was "evidently and consistently evasive of the legal questions posed by senators present at the hearing. That the media flocked to follow (Santiago) was incidental."

A wholesale slander

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THINK natural family planning is easy and, uhhmm, natural?

Take it from a friend who recently gave birth some seven years after her last pregnancy. "We have two college degrees and a master's in business between us," she said in exasperation shortly after finding out she was pregnant. "And still we couldn't make NFP work!"

After being advised to get off the pill, her husband and she decided that he would undergo a vasectomy but, being a busy executive, he could never seem to find the time for the procedure. In the meantime, they decided to practice NFP which, despite all their preparation, they just couldn't seem to get the hang of. "And I don't even have an excuse," she added. "Because I'm a like a Swiss watch. I'm so regular!"

I wonder if the author of, or the committee which approved, a document purporting to answer "Frequently Asked Questions on Responsible Parenthood/Natural Family Planning" issued by the Family Health Office of the Department of Health was aware of my friend's story—and those of hundreds of thousands of other women with a similar plot line and common ending: pregnancy. If he or she or they did, they wouldn't then have written that "when properly applied, modern NFP has been found to be more effective than any artificial approach, except irreversible surgical sterilization."

The caveat, of course, is the phrase "when properly applied." For unlike remembering to take a pill once a day, or having an IUD inserted and periodically checked, or wearing a contraceptive patch or a condom, the application of NFP is notoriously complicated and involves the most unpredictable of factors: human behavior and desire.

* * *

WOMEN who've "failed" at NFP, that is, gotten pregnant despite their efforts, have told me that it wasn't only because their husbands refused to cooperate or came home drunk and insisting on sex. It wasn't even because their husbands were violent and coerced them into sex or just raped them, although that, too, is more common than we think. The women got pregnant because they, too, were horny on an unsafe day and were willing to risk—or perhaps just willing to push to the back of their minds—the possibility of pregnancy.

Here's what the "FAQ" has to say about couples who practice NFP: These couples, it says, "are found to be more relaxed, comfortable and loving with each other because they do not suffer from shame or loss of self-esteem, nor fear of the failure of the method since they are totally in charge, nor any doubt or suspicion of marital infidelity that has been known to accompany the use of contraceptives or sterilization."

On what were these assertions based? Certainly, couples motivated to use NFP would say they are "relaxed, comfortable and loving," while they're using the method. But how was the comparison made with couples using other modern methods? Judging from my own experience, and the stories women have told me, NFP, precisely because determining an "unsafe" day depends so much on one's interpretation of often ambiguous signs, would tend to cause more anxiety, tension and recrimination than other more convenient methods.

And what proof does the Department of Health have that couples practicing NFP are more faithful or trusting than those using other methods or no methods at all? How can a wife be sure, for instance, that on days of abstinence her husband does not seek solace in the arms of another?

* * *

FIDELITY to one's partner isn't determined by the method of family planning you use. Your roving eye will not be quelled by periodic abstinence. And if you're the jealous, possessive type, you'd suspect your spouse of philandering even if you're a stalwart of Couples for Christ. To smear users of modern family planning wholesale as unhappy and frustrated is a slander of such huge proportions I wouldn't be surprised if a class action suit is soon filed against the DOH.

Logic would tell us that a couple for whom the fear of pregnancy is quelled by the use of a safe, reliable and convenient method and are thus more freely able to express their love and desire for each other would be much happier and secure in their relationship than if they worried about the possibility of pregnancy each time they have sex.

Logic would tell us that a family that is of the "right" size—according to the couple's choice and desire, their ability to provide for the children's well-being, the amount of time, effort and loving they can put into child rearing—would be a happier, healthier, more loving family.

And logic would also tell us that if a method of family planning that its promoters claim to be "modern"—that is, it has been scientifically tested and proven to be safe and effective—is truly all it's touted to be, then it can be marketed on its own merits, and need not rely on raising bogeys and making false claims against other methods just to be accepted.

* * *

IF this is so, why do NFP counselors, some of whom are on the DOH's payroll, rely so much on scaring women and men against other modern family planning methods as they try to convince them to try NFP? Is it because they know that, once a couple have tried other methods and used them correctly and successfully, they would realize just how unreliable, unpredictable and messy even "modern" NFP can be?

Or maybe that's precisely what NFP promoters have against the other modern contraceptives. They are "too" convenient. They make enjoying sex without fear of pregnancy too easy. Come to think of it, perhaps it's not the "artifice" in the methods that they dislike so much as the "convenience" these methods provide. Sex is all right—as long as it's wrapped in guilt and fear, inconvenience and uncertainty. Easy and enjoyable sex, now that's the real sin.

Like lemmings to the sea

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

LET us begin by stating that the current public sector debt is estimated at more than P5 trillion and that the present situation is not merely a question of one crisis but multiple ones.

Having said that, pardon me for asking a couple of naïve questions, but everyone's asking them, so perhaps I should also ask them. The first is, why in the name of austerity was it necessary to bring two grandchildren barely two years of age with their two *yayas* on a state visit? The second is, was it really necessary, given the need to lead by example, for the President to attend the Brunei wedding when the King and Queen of Thailand sent their regrets and had their ambassador bring their present instead? The third is, how does one describe Winston Garcia supposedly borrowing P1.2 million from the GSIS, the agency which he may not head much longer, to buy a foreign-made car at this time? The fourth is, why did the Senate have to investigate the female "escorts" whose photos landed on the front pages? The last was, we take it, in aid of legislation with Sen. Luisa Estrada supposedly wanting to know, "*Magkano isang ganoon?*" (For the benefit of non-Tagalogs that is, "How much for one f…k?") I mean, that's really relevant and it should bring in more foreign investments and create more jobs. Or were the senators merely amusing themselves because they haven't any answers to the problems? Is there a national crisis or is the crisis only for the common man?

I happened to pick up a copy of the Sept. 27 issue of Time magazine on Shanghai where they claim that the new financial district, Pudong, sits on what was marshland 15 years ago. This year alone, $12 billion in contracted foreign direct investment is expected, nearly 40 times that in 1985. From 1998 to 2002, 10,000 foreign companies have set up shop in Pudong. I would perhaps be more sympathetic to the Senate if they had discussed why investors aren't breaking down our doors and creating those badly needed jobs for the 11 million unemployed Filipinos, not to mention the underemployed. Hasn't anyone wondered if we aren't doing something wrong? If so what can we do to remedy the situation? Or is it too late to avert the dissolution of the Republic?

You can, it seems, trace most of our deficit problems to lousy management in the form of inefficient and poorly targeted government spending. More than 80 percent of the national budget is swallowed up by local government units, the salaries of government employees and, of course, debt servicing. At this point, there's not much the senators can do for social development or investment in infrastructure, except refuse to part with their pork barrel perhaps. No wonder then they had to amuse themselves somehow.

I don't have to tell you we're lagging behind most of Southeast Asia economically. Filipinos who've been to Vietnam know that we're being out-distanced in a way that takes your breath away. Just to sober you up some more: from 2001 to 2003, we received $900 million in direct foreign investments, down from the average of $1.2 billion in 1998 to 2000. Vietnam received almost double that amount and Thailand nearly three times as much. Think of Winston supposedly buying himself a new Volvo, and it's enough to make you puke.

So it's not a mere fiscal crisis we've got on our hands. By January when textile quotas are abolished, we are going to lose a significant portion of our garment export trade to China. Of the Philippines' three million workers in manufacturing, 400,000 textile workers could be affected. Textiles account for a tenth of the Philippines' export revenue, down from a sixth in 1995 (aside from our debts and the exploding population everything else seems to be down). However, since the industry is very labor-intensive, the social and political value of clothing production is still significant. Can you imagine our unemployment figures in less than six months? Maybe we can just apply to be a vassal state to China, if we aren't already, unless our legislators have any brighter ideas.

In despair, some of us want to shift from a highly centralized government with clear separation of powers to a unicameral parliamentary form of government under a federal system. One advantage according to a cynic is that it will be cheaper with fewer people to bribe. Others think that due to our contentious politics, the government will not be stable because of frequent opposition calls for a no-confidence vote. But Lordly, Lord, what good will it do us when it will still be the usual suspects in power? That doesn't appear to leave us any options. I don't know if anyone wants to hear it, but increasingly, Filipinos appear to see their government as unable or unwilling to curb corruption and provide efficient, accountable governance. I'm not going to mention the PCGG because between them and Winston I'm going to have hysterics.

Now if our present group of leaders would say that none of them would run for office after they convene a constitutional convention and come up with a new constitution, then perhaps it might just work.

You realize of course that we have a crisis in leadership as well and that even if leaders may be democratically elected (albeit in a skewered manner) they appear to lack the ability to rule effectively. Given their perceived lack of competence, professionalism, not to mention patriotism and vision (for good measure throw in the bureaucracy too in that assessment), what do we do?

* * *

Comments to bambiharper@yahoo.com

Good start

YOUNG BLOOD

Giscelle Maryrose R. Kilayko

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

INSIDE the University of the Philippines campus, I usually hang out at a place that is also frequented by street children asking for food and money. It is quite disconcerting to see them, because you never are quite certain if the right thing to do is to give or to refuse. You see them every day. Should you give your loose change freely?

I am aware that giving money to street children is discouraged even by charitable agencies. But you feel guilty telling dark, malnourished children that you do not have money to spare even if you do. The realization that you have so much while they have so little gnaws at your conscience.

Sometimes, I end up giving loose change. Most of the time, however, I just give them whatever is left of my take-out lunch. At other times, I give them my empty water bottle so that they will earn a few centavos from selling it.

There are two children I have been giving food or money more or less on a regular basis. I refer to them as the banana-cue boys.

The older of these boys is probably 12 or 13 years old, though he looks too small for his age. I first met him when he suddenly blocked my way as I stepped off the jeepney.

"*Ate, bili po kayo,*" he pleaded. "*Isa na lang po ang natitira at gusto ko na pong umuwi!*"

I rarely eat food sold on the streets, especially one as polluted with exhaust emission as Katipunan. So I told him, "*Hindi ako kumakain eh…*"

"Di ako na lang po ang kakain!" he offered. "*Pwede, Ate? Gusto ko na pong umuwi.*"

The sun had almost set and it had started drizzling. Who was I to keep the young boy from going home? I bought a stick from the boy so he could eat it. I was smiling as I walked away.

It made sense to me. I was not giving money to one who was undeserving. He earned it by selling his product with a lot of persistence. However, rather than simply having an exchange of goods (money and food), I got to give him food! It made me happy to know that if he had nothing else to eat that day, at least he had that banana-cue.

I have been seeing him and his younger companion quite often lately. They have become even bolder. Rather than ask me to buy from them, they sometimes now ask me to buy something for them. I am neither shocked nor affronted by their presumption. I actually enjoy buying their banana-cues for them!

I have read somewhere that there is no such thing as real altruism, which means helping or giving purely for the sake of the other without any selfish motive. I do not know if this is true, but I confess that giving what little I have makes me feel good. Is giving then a selfish act? Giving? Do I give simply to derive pleasure from doing something good?

I have not examined my motives closely, but it does not matter to me. Whatever my reasons, I am just glad that someone else benefits from my selfish actions. So what if I do it to feel good? From my own self-centered pleasure, a child who does not have much gets to eat at least.

Poverty is so pervasive in our country and many children are suffering. As a student, I am unable to do much for them, but I believe that every good deed, no matter how small, counts. For now, all I can afford is to give leftover food or buy banana-cue for the young street vendors themselves. It looks like a good place to start.

Giscelle Maryrose R. Kilayko, 19, is a psychology sophomore at the University of the Philippines, Diliman.

To give or not to give

Diana Mae Fulgencio

ON MY way to Divisoria one summer day, I got caught in a traffic jam. It was really irritating. Imagine all the smoke and the chatter of impatient drivers and the heat. We were just there waiting, when suddenly a young boy in tattered clothes got on the jeepney and started to wipe the passengers' shoes with a rag. When the jeepney was about to move, the boy extended his left arm to us in a gesture of begging.

I was struck with his appearance. He looked pale and thin and pitiful. His eyes reflected the hunger that was slowly killing his young body. At his age and in his condition, he should not have been out in the streets.

When he extended a trembling hand to me, my own hand was already inside my wallet. But a woman seated beside, spoke up and said: "Don't give alms to those kids. You are spoiling their parents. The parents of those kids are probably just playing cards in their homes or drinking with their neighbors. All they know is how to reproduce."

I was torn between giving the child the P5 coin I was holding and following the woman's advice. She seemed to be sure about what she was saying. I had just come from the province. Although I read newspapers and watch television, my knowledge regarding child labor was not good enough to enable me to make a quick decision.

Now in my second year in the city, I still cannot forget the incident. I already know that what the woman said was largely correct. I know that there are parents who are so lazy they just let their children do the responsibility of providing for the family. Others have also told me that many of those kids work with syndicates and that the money we give only end up in the pockets of people who are criminally inclined.

But every time I remember how the boy looked that day and how I turned him I away, I still feel guilty. I wonder what has happened to the boy. Did his parents whip him when he came home penniless? Is he still alive today? If he is, is he living a more comfortable life now?

I live in a dormitory inside an exclusive school for girls. I do not go out that much—just once every month. But almost every time I take a jeepney, a child would come up to me begging for whatever I am willing to give. And still I am not sure whether I should give him some money or just turn him away.

Such encounters are, of course, quite ordinary. But while the more fortunate among us are busy with their cell phones or buying "*kikay*" stuff, perhaps we should take time to think about the children who are trying to make a living in the streets. Their number seems to be growing. What can we do to help them?

Look around and see these kids going around and knocking at the windows of cars stuck in traffic. Is there hope for their future?

Diana Mae Fulgencio, 18, is a religious education sophomore at St. Paul University.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

A clear indication of a serious moral crisis

POPE John Paul II said that terrorism is and always will be a show of ferocity and that—precisely for this reason—it will never be able to solve conflicts among human beings. Only reason and love are the valid means of surpassing and resolving disputes between people. No situation of injustice, no feeling of frustration, no philosophy or religion can justify such an aberration.

The explosion of violent incidents we are witnessing around the world is the result of scandalous injustices and imbalances that create the climate for unbridled revenge. When fundamental rights are violated, it is easy to fall prey to temptations of hatred and violence. Nonetheless, we must keep in check our base impulses and together work to build a global culture of solidarity that restores hope in the future in all peoples, especially the young.

I am thinking not only of economic systems but also of the laws which, under the guise of justice, violate the fundamental rights of individuals (e.g., the unborn and the aged through abortion, genetic manipulation and euthanasia). Such laws do not lead to freedom; they are rather catalysts for aggression. They assault our moral sensibilities, leading us subtly unaware into corruption.

To claim, for example, the right to abortion, or to recognize that right in law, means to give human freedom a perverse and evil significance: an absolute power over others and against others.

Many expressed shock over the recent massacre of innocent children in Russia, but few seem concerned that millions more of children—the most innocent of innocents—are being lawfully killed each day through abortion in hospitals and clinics around the globe—and in the most gruesome manner.

This is because, today, in many people's consciences, the evilness of abortion has become progressively obscured. The acceptance of abortion in the popular mind, in behavior and in law itself is a telling sign of an extremely dangerous crisis of the moral sense, which is becoming more and more incapable of distinguishing between good and evil, even when the fundamental right to life is at stake.

Given such a grave situation, we need, now more than ever, to have the courage to look the truth in the eye and to call things by their proper names, without yielding to convenient compromises or to the temptation of self-deception.

Terrorism is not only found in places like New York, Spain, Iraq, Israel and Russia but in our own home towns and in families. This, ultimately, is where terrorism begins and where it must be curtailed.

—PAUL KOKOSKI,
234 Columbia Drive,
Hamilton, Ontario, Canada

What will it take to solve the fiscal crisis?

I AM a simple housewife and, just like every Filipino, I am very much concerned about the present state of our nation.

Need we experience a catastrophe before we learn to live and work together in the spirit of cooperation?

A week before the idea of a Bayanihan Fund was raised, I asked my husband if it were possible to solve our financial crisis through a fund drive of some sort. The thought came to my mind noting people's willingness to share something with the hapless in times of calamities. He gave a negative answer, saying our debts are just far too high. He even opined that what we need is a war so as to bring down the continuously growing population and, perhaps, eventually bring about change of some kind.

Donations are now pouring in from all sectors yet there are doubts and mistrust among the citizenry as to how these donations will be put to use. So, may I call the attention of government people. It seems your morality quotient is very low and you need some kind of inner overhauling.

Crisis comes because somehow, somewhere, someone committed a blunder, a mistake. As for our country, these mistakes come in the form of graft and corruption, misuse, abuse and disuse of resources, incompetent people and abuse of power. In every government, these seem ever present. Power and money do open a person to too much temptation. I'm not saying our government is completely corrupt. There are still a few good men in there.

We are, indeed, in a time of crisis and we have to deal with it. Face it and think of possible solutions and implement them when feasible. But why is it that instead of cooperating with each other, we keep on pointing an accusing finger at each other? That solves nothing and only cause further animosity and hurt egos, triggering more charges and countercharges.

I came across these lines somewhere and, perhaps, we should bear these in mind: "If things have gone awry, let neither of us put an accusing finger. Who is to blame is not important, only how shall we set the situation right."

So, once again, let me ask the question: Need we experience a catastrophe before we learn to live and work together in the spirit of cooperation?

—MARILES C. SIM,
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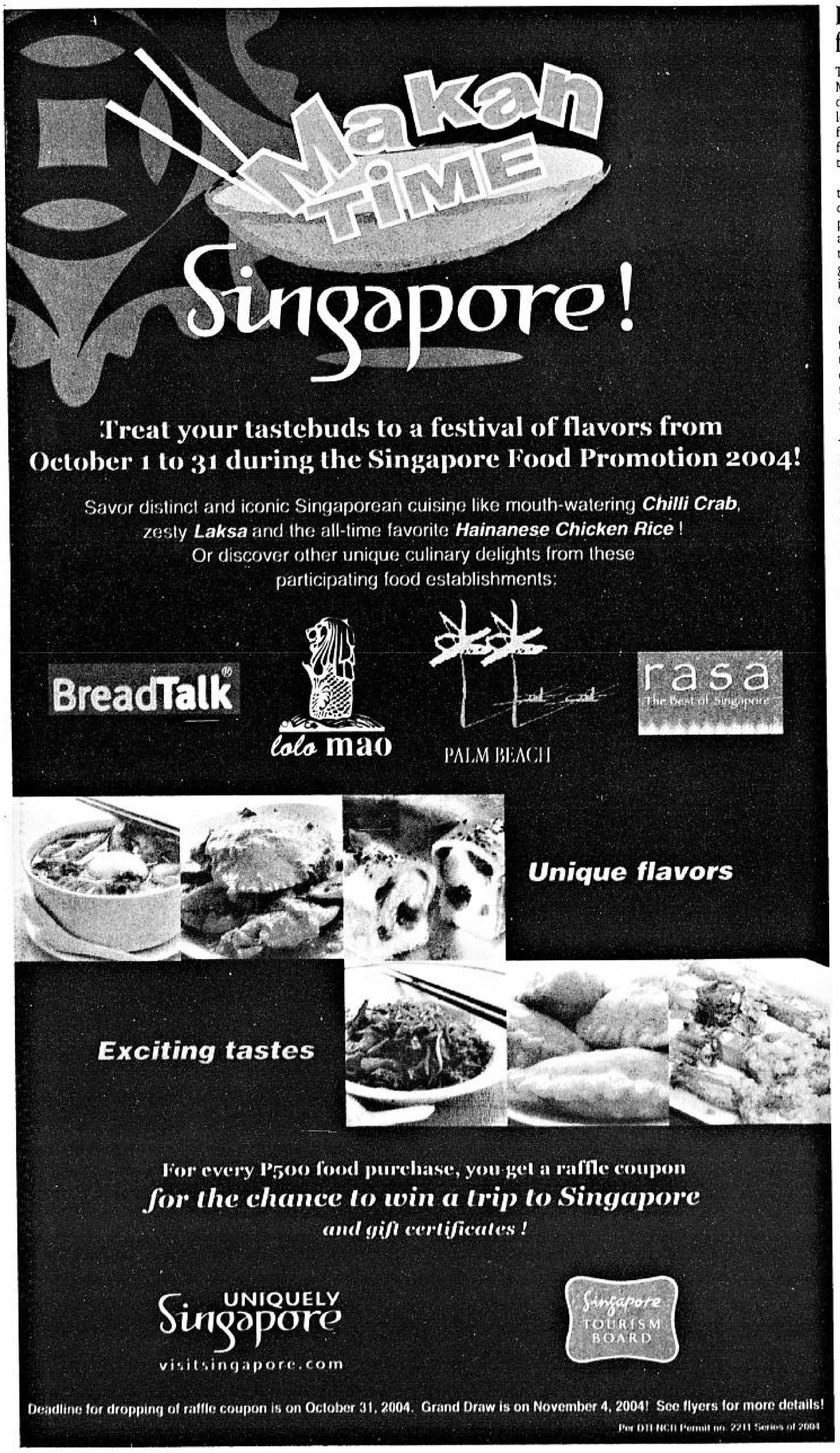
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How to bail out GMA from the fiscal crisis

TAKE NOTE of how President Macapagal-Arroyo smiles these days. I wonder how a national leader can flash such smile in the face of the shameless begging for financial help to save our country's economy.

With the present state of the nation, the President should look composed but not proud and happy. For she has nothing to be proud and happy about her administration's loans which are much bigger than the combined borrowings during the Ramos and Estrada regimes.

One can't help thinking now that she borrowed a lot of money to make it appear that her transition government was doing well in order to get ahead in the pre-election ratings game, if not to provide rich nourishment for the cash cows in her campaign for the presidency. If her massive borrowings are connected to the crisis we are in, she aggravates the offense and makes it doubly hurtful by holding our entire nation hostage under threat of economic death if we don't agree to bail her out of her own crime by paying new taxes.

The nation is caught between the devil and the deep blue sea. With the unresolved questions on her alleged cheating to win the 2004 elections, the exposés on the fat salaries of GOCC officials and her controversial appointments; I am appalled that this administration has the gall to offer us a dreadful, bitter pill to bring us out of the fiscal crisis.

—ADI BAEN SANTOS,
108E F. Roxas St.,
Caloocan City

Age does matter

HERE in our country, people who reach the age of 35 and above are not given equal job opportunities. You'll notice this when you look at the classified ads section of the newspapers. Employees are very particular about age limit.

This is the reason why cheap labor is flourishing in our country and why many degree holders are unemployed. Also, this is one of the main reasons why our skilled laborers are forced to find job abroad.

Those in the 35-and-above age group are the ones most affected by the economic crisis: they have children they must feed and send to school, never mind the high cost of education. In other countries, every person has an equal chance of getting a job. Lawmakers should pass a law to protect a person from being discriminated because of age.

We must not underestimate people just because of their age. For as long as they are capable, they must be given a chance to prove their worth.

—ZYRINE M. DAZO,
zye_04@yahoo.com

Cleaning the movie houses

THIS is in reaction to the laudable move of SM not to show sex films in its chain of theaters.

As parents, we are deeply grateful for being spared the embarrassment of having to shield our children from watching the preview of sex films when we bring them to see children's movies.

We need to keep our sense of worth which oftentimes is eroded by sex movies. People do say that after watching these "dirty" movies, they do feel "dirty," too. And if you compare, movie houses showing sex films are indeed dirtier than those showing quality movies. It's time, perhaps, to ask the cleaners?

Paging the Ayalas and Gokongweis! Let us try even just for one year: ban sex films and violent films from our theaters.

Filipinos are impressionable. Armida Siguion-Reyna and others can pontificate till hell freezes over, but the reality is that Filipinos are great imitators. They want to be led to follow good examples, and they want to become the persons they often see in the movies, television, etc.

—MA. CHRISTINA LIM,
98 MH del Pilar St.,
West Grace Park, Caloocan City

Non-transparent, corrupt, dishonest

THE ROW between Roberto Romulo and Max Soliven is just the tip of the iceberg. I think it is a reflection of problems in Philippine media and politics.

The debate is not whether citizens have the right to reply to attacks or not. For the politicians and big businesses, the main concern is how to shield themselves from criticisms and attacks from fellow politicians as they all viciously fight to rob the national coffers.

I think the Philippine press is not independent because:

- It is being used as a publicity and lobby tool for politicians and big business.
- It is owned by vested interests.
- It mirrors the subculture of Philippine politics which is non-transparent, corrupt and dishonest.

—VINIA ABESAMIS,
1 the Holt, Hampton Bishop,
Hereford, HR1 4LE,
Herefordshire, UK

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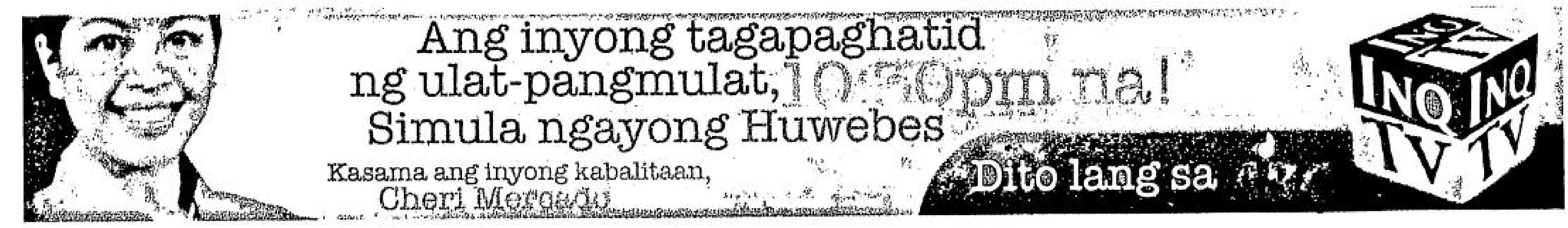
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WALLS

AFP

A worker arranges native walling materials in Tacurong, Sultan Kudarat, one of the products that the town is proud of.

GMA cancels northern Cebu trip as weather turns bad during visit

By Jolene R. Bulambot
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo was forced yesterday to cancel her trip to the northern part of Cebu due to heavy torrential rains brought by the intertropical convergence zone.

The President was scheduled to inaugurate the Bogo Central Terminal yesterday together with Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza. After which, she was to motor to Hagnaya, in the neighboring San Remegio town for another inauguration there.

About 200 residents of Bogo town, 107 km from Cebu City, were dismayed when Mayor Celestino Martinez III announced the bad news.

Saul Paa, senior official of the Media Accreditation and Relations Office (Maro), yesterday said the President was on board the presidential helicopter from the southern resort town of Moalboal bound for Bogo when the pilot decided to not to proceed due to heavy rains and zero visibility and instead landed on Mactan Island.

Arroyo was staying at the Serena Beach Resort in Moalboal, some 83 km south of Cebu City, during her three-day visit in Cebu.

Paa said President Arroyo was on board a VELLE 412 chopper that departed from Moalboal at 10:45 a.m. yesterday. She was scheduled to arrive at 11:45 a.m. in Bogo.

Maro officials said the President's helicopter headed to the Mactan-Benito Ebuen Airbase where she boarded her presidential plane that brought her and her party to Davao City, where she was scheduled to speak at the convention of the Mindanao Export Development Council and to later attend a wedding.

Martinez said he was disappointed that the President was not able to come, especially since town officials and residents had prepared for the event.

10 solons hold low key talks with MILF rebs

COTABATO CITY—At least 10 congressmen held a low-profile meeting with leaders of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in an undisclosed town in Maguindanao on Thursday where they discussed several issues in connection with the Moro rebellion.

Maguindanao Rep. Simeon Datumanong, who led the House team constituted by Speaker Jose de Venecia, on Friday described the meeting with MILF Chair Murad Ebrahim and other rebel leaders as "intimate and cordial."

"We were there not as negotiators but facilitators to help foster better understanding with the MILF leadership on the issues surrounding the peace process," Datumanong said.

Most of the legislators who attended the meeting could be considered veterans of the peace process with Moro rebels with some of them playing key roles in the signing of the 1996 peace agreement with the Moro National Liberation Front (MILF).

The MILF is a breakaway faction of the MNLF and was not involved in later negotiations that led to the signing of the 1996 peace treaty.

"We have done this before with the MNLF and we want this success duplicated by the government in its peace deal with the MILF," Datumanong said.

Desire

Datumanong said that during the meeting, the MILF leaders told them that the rebel group also wanted an end to the long-running Moro rebellion.

"Just like the government, the MILF wants the Mindanao conflict resolved soonest," Datumanong quoted Ebrahim as saying.

The government and the MILF have been talking for the past five years in a bid to end the rebellion.

The formal peace talks have been suspended for quite sometime now but low-key negotiations have been continuing, with Malaysia acting as third-country mediator.

The progress of the peace talks was hampered by several issues, including allegations the MILF has ties with the regional terror group Jemaah Islamiyah.

The MILF repeatedly denied the allegations and even invited the government and even foreign governments to come and visit its camps.

However, a police intelligence officer told the INQUIRER in Kidapawan City that during an MILF assembly in Maguindanao on Aug. 27, Ebrahim had ordered field commanders to "confine JI members in a secluded island in Lanao del Sur."

Hidden asset

The police intelligence officer, who requested anonymity, said this was an obvious move to prevent other parties from seeing the JI operatives, most of them Indonesians, if a visit to an MILF camp had been agreed upon.

"This just confirmed reports that they have links with the terrorists," he said.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said the claim was an exaggeration of what actually took place during the assembly.

"Oh my God . . . that is not true. What the chairman told us was to always keep the guard (sic) against the JI and not to confine them or protect them or anything like that," Kabalu said.

He said the MILF has welcomed the fresh claim because "we can have ample time to discuss this with the government."

The peace negotiation was expected to resume after Oct. 10 when the Malaysian-led ceasefire monitoring team had already been deployed.

Peace advocates in Mindanao said they were already impatient with the long delay and urged both the government and the rebel group to speed up the resumption of the negotiations.

Mary Ann Arnado of the Mindanao Peoples Caucus said they are anxious and impatient because of fear that with the resurging issues against the MILF, the formal negotiations would again be jeopardized.

"As Mindanaoans and peace advocates, we strongly urge the Philippine government, the MILF, and the government of Malaysia to resume the peace talks as soon as possible," Arnado said. ***Charlie Señase and Jeffrey Tupas, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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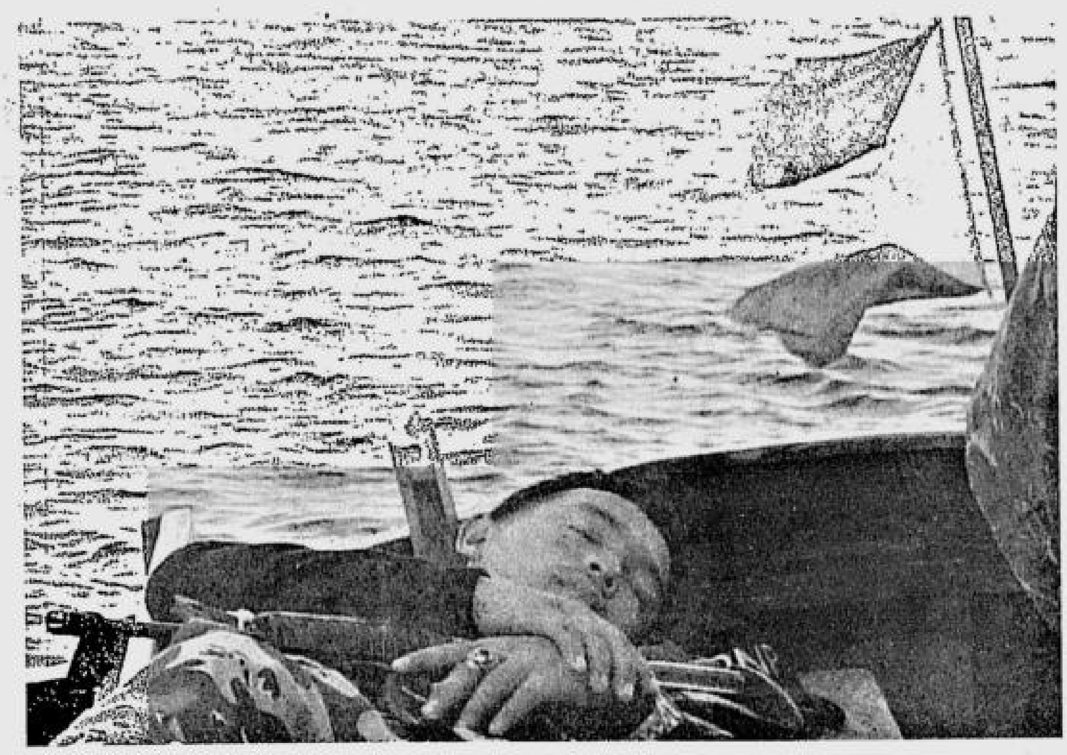

PRECIOUS TIME TROY MALCOM/CONTRIBUTOR
A soldier takes a nap as he rides in a Navy boat in Bongao, Tawi-Tawi.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA STRIKE

Fishing boat mutineers charged; 10 of 12 nabbed

By Aquiles Zonio
PDI Mindanao Bureau

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Twelve of the more than 200 fishing workers here, who staged a mutiny against their employer by seizing company-owned fishing boats in Papua New Guinea last month, were charged in a local court.

The filing of the charges was only discovered when police authorities enforced arrest warrants issued by the court.

Earlier, the RD Tuna Ventures Inc., the fishermen's employer, was reported as pledging in a dialogue brokered by the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) that the mutineers would not be sued anymore.

On Wednesday, police here enforced a warrant against the 12 fishermen but only managed to arrest 10 of them.

Roger Villarosa, 43, a boat captain and one of the arrested mutineers, decried the charges.

He said they were made to believe that the issue had been settled already.

During the mutiny, Villarosa and his companions demanded that they be paid according to standards set by the International Labor Organization (ILO) and that they should be treated humanely.

They refused to release several company-owned vessels until their demands had been met.

At the height of the mutiny, the management of RD Ventures said it would sue the workers because the company was allegedly losing about $100,000 per day because of the protest.

Customs men foil attempt to smuggle ₱2M in machines

By Allan Macatuno
PDI Central Luzon Desk

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT ZONE—Bureau of Customs personnel here scored in its war against smugglers on Wednesday after they stopped an attempt to ship out of this freeport zone 48 packages of used machines and parts worth more than P2 million.

Reports said BoC agents, armed with a warrant of seizure and detention issued by Subic District collector Arnel Alcaraz, stopped six container vans and trucks at the freeport's Tipo Gate containing the undeclared packages.

Alcaraz said the real value of the items, mostly machines used in the production of electronic parts and components, were not declared in the shipping manifest.

He said BoC operatives seized the goods for alleged undervaluation and misdeclaration of entry.

The 48 packages were loaded into the truck and container vans whose cargo was declared at a gross weight of 2,887 kilograms.

"The seizure of the articles was prompted by the fact that the declared gross weight of the articles, which was 2,887 kg, would be hardly enough to (fit into) the trucks and containers vans used in transporting the (items)," Alcaraz said.

The machines arrived at the port of Subic in 1999 and were consigned to Wistron Infocom, a Subic-based company. It had a declared value of more than P2 million.

On Sept. 23 this year, Wistron sold these for P150,000 to R & C Denshi International, a firm based in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, through a negotiated sale. The shipment was assessed P20,140 in duties and taxes.

Alcaraz said BoC officials would file charges of violation of Section 2503 of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines against R & C Denshi International, the shipment's claimant.

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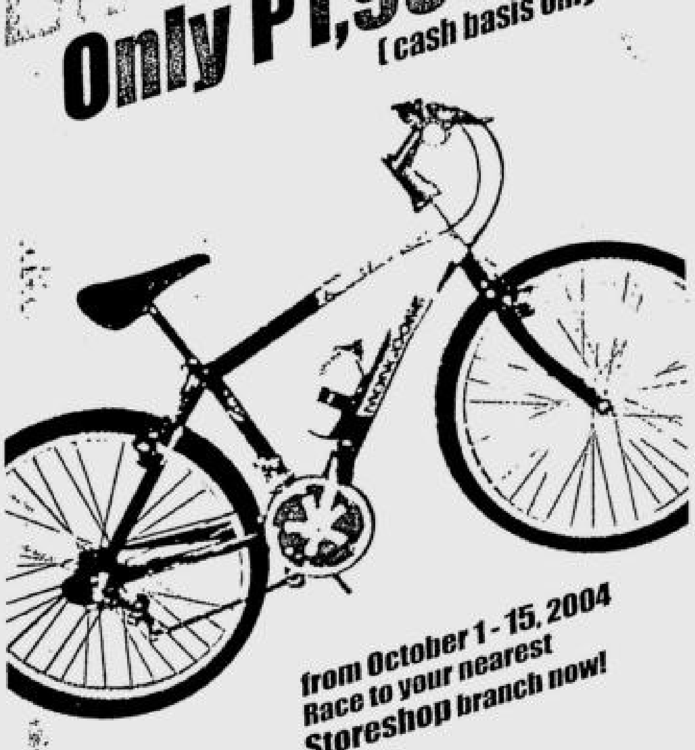

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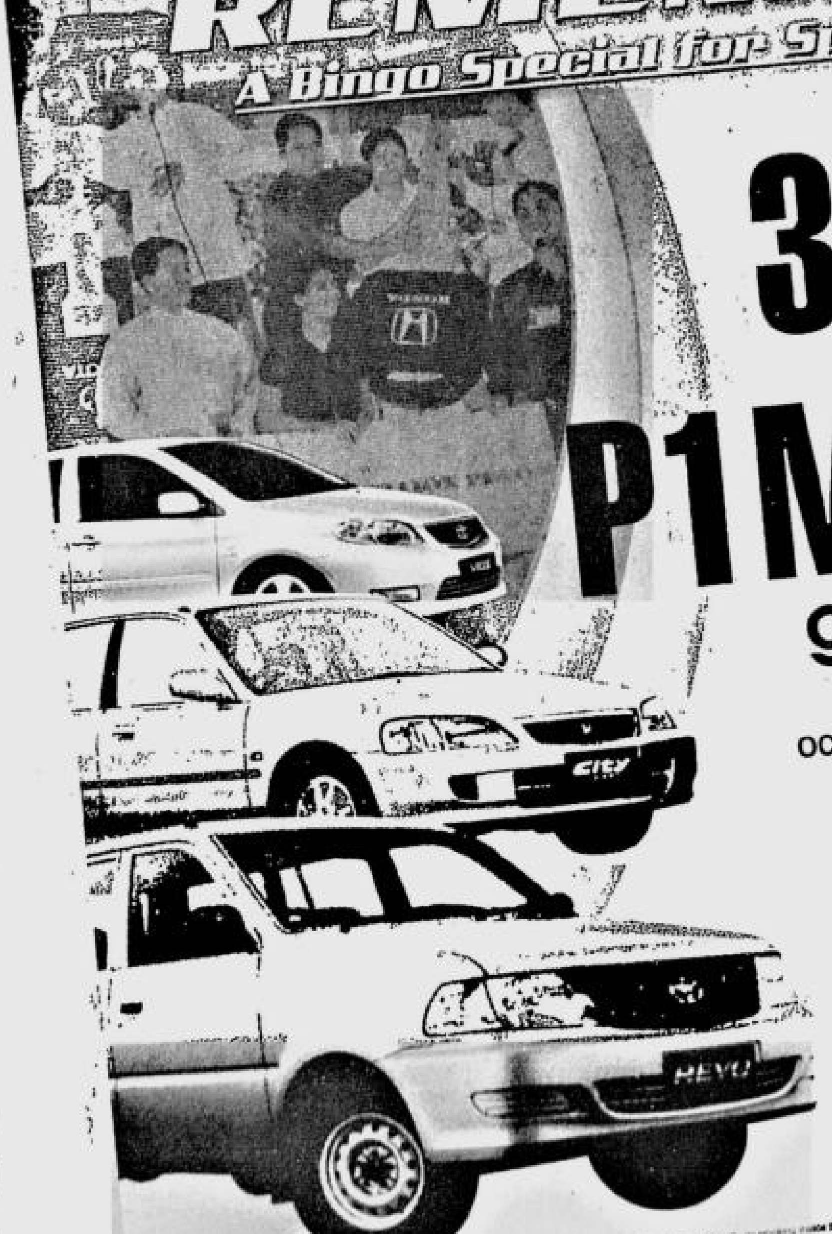

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Cops nab couple in pyramid racket

CAMP SIMEON OLA, Legazpi City—A couple allegedly involved in an investment scam was arrested by police yielding an unlicensed firearm and ammunition Wednesday in their car.

In a report to this camp, Chief Insp. Nilo Berdin of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in Camarines Norte identified the suspects as Melchor Fuentes Baarde and his wife lawyer Brenda Victorino Baarde.

According to Berdin, Melchor told police he was the associate publisher of tabloid Text Tonite and the executive vice president for administration of the Mateo Management Group (MMG) based in Muntinlupa City. Brenda initially introduced herself as Lea Gregorio and confessed to be a former officer of MMG.

The couple was first sighted at Vinzons, Camarines Norte and later intercepted in Barangay Poblacion, Sta. Elena of the same province where they were caught in possession of an unlicensed .45 cal. pistol and live ammunition.

CIDG records said the Baarde couple was subject of a warrant of arrest for estafa issued by Judge Bonifacio Sanz Maceda of RTC Branch 275, with no bail recommended. *Ronnie Lorejo, Southern Luzon Bureau*

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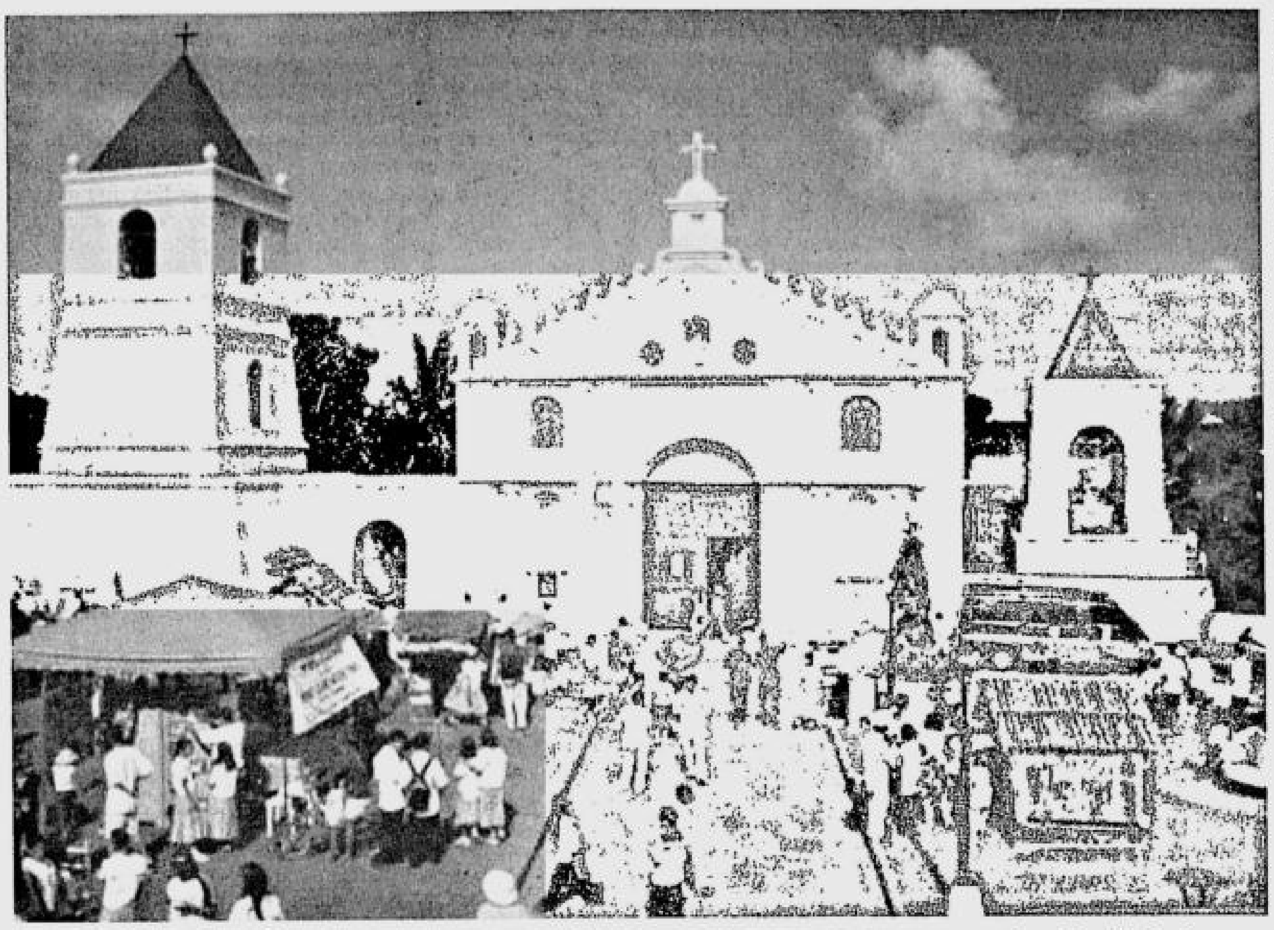
Balangiga rings bells in austere times

By Rolando O. Borrinaga
Balangiga, Eastern Samar



THE BALANGIGA church and the part of the anniversary crowd in last Tuesday's 103rd commemoration of the "Balangiga Encounter Day." ROLANDO O. BORRINAGA

THE PRINT on the back of the locally printed t-shirts said it all: "Let the bells ring [from] the belfry where they belong."

With that terse message, the town of Balangiga in Eastern Samar commemorated the 103rd anniversary of the "Balangiga Encounter Day" last Tuesday, Sept. 28.

In line with the government's austerity measures during this fiscal crisis, the town also cut on some expenses. The ceremonial activities were all cramped up in the morning, including the theatrical 'reenactment of their famous event, which used to be held in the afternoon.

And the town parade after the morning church Mass no longer had the customary floats, including the one with the copy of the memorial with the two bells of Balangiga now displayed at an Air Force base in the United States.

And the town now talks about three identified bells, not just two, which they wish to be returned to the church belfry of their town.

The historical event

The officially called "Balangiga Encounter" refers to the local event in the morning of Saturday, Sept. 28, 1901, when some 500 native fighters mostly armed with bolos staged a successful attack on soldiers of Company C. 9th US Infantry Regiment, who were mostly eating or lining up for breakfast in their garrison in the town.

The result was the "worst single defeat" of the US Army during the Philippine-American War more than a century ago. This event was known in US official reports and publications as the "Balangiga Massacre."

Of the 74 men of Company C, 36 were killed during the attack (including the three commissioned officers), eight of the wounded died later during the escape by bancas to Basey town, and four were missing and presumed dead.

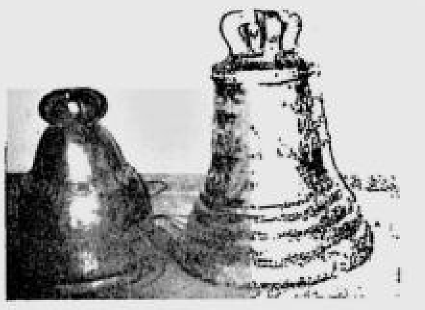
Of the 26 American survivors, only four were not wounded.

The natives suffered 28 deaths and 22 wounded.

For a long time, it had been believed that the church bells of Balangiga were used to signal the attack on the US troops. But two recently published books about the Balangiga event had established that that attack had begun when a bell was rung as signal for the hidden reinforcements to join the attack on the garrison.

Considered one of the worst defeats in US military history, the Filipino victory in Balangiga was followed by a shameful episode that the US government has not yet regretted nor apologized for.

US military authorities retaliated with a "kill and burn" policy to take back Samar, deliberately equating a victorious small town with an entire island, from October 1901 to January 1902.



THE TWO bigger bells that were brought to the US by returning 11th Infantry soldiers to their home station are now displayed at the Balangiga Memorial in its Trophy Park. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Implemented by the Sixth Separate Brigade under Brig. Gen. Jacob H. Smith of the US Army, which included a battalion of US Marines under Major Littleton T. W. Waller, the campaign was blamed for the alleged disappearance of some 15,000 people in Samar.

The general reportedly gave orders to kill anybody capable of bearing arms (specifically, 10 years old and above) during the combat operations to reduce Samar into a "howling wilderness."

THE BALANGIGA Memorial, sculpted by national artist Napoleon Abueva, was unveiled last year and is the main attraction of the Balangiga town plaza. ROLANDO O. BORRINAGA

Aside from the population loss, the Samar campaign resulted in massive devastation of the rural economic base in terms of hundreds of burned houses, destroyed native boats, and slaughtered carabaos, the Filipinos' draft animals. US troops likewise burned and confiscated rice and food stocks and market-ready abaca (hemp) fibers, the principal source of local cash income.

General Smith was eventually made the scapegoat for the shameful policy on Samar. He was forced to retire from the US Army following a court martial.

The three church bells of Balangiga were taken days after the attack by men of the 11th US Infantry, another US Army unit that occupied the abandoned town before being relieved by US Marines on Oct. 23, 1901.

'War trophies'

These "war trophies" were shipped out of the Leyte-Samar region from the headquarters of the 11th US Infantry at the former Camp Bumpus, now the Leyte Park Resort in Tacloban City.

The camp was named after 1st Lt. Edward A. Bumpus, Harvard alumnus and second in command of Company C, who was also killed in Balangiga.

The smallest bell was turned over to the headquarters of the 9th US Infantry Regiment in Calbayog, Samar, around April 1902. This relic is on permanent display at the traveling museum of the 9th US Infantry, now stationed in Tongduchon, South Korea.

The two bigger bells were brought to the US by returning 11th Infantry soldiers to their home station at the former Fort D.A. Russell, now the F.E. Warren Air Force Base, in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Both are now displayed at the Balangiga Memorial in its Trophy Park.

The return of the Bells of Balangiga to the Philippines remains the last issue of contention between the US and Philippine governments related to the Philippine-American War.

Prospects

In an interview with the INQUIRER, Balangiga Mayor Catalina M. Camenforte hoped that the US government would take the initiative to have the bells in Wyoming returned to her town in the spirit of peace and reconciliation.

In a speech prepared for the occasion, Eastern Samar Gov. Ben P. Evardone cited recent findings of the Balangiga Research Group (BRG) related to the bells issue.

The BRG is a multi-national group composed of this writer; Bob Couttie, a Subic-based video director and historian; and Jean Wall, the daughter the first American soldier to be attacked in Balangiga a century ago.

The BRG findings presented independent proofs of the Balangiga origin of the three bells.

Experts around the world that the BRG had consulted were one in saying that based on custom law, military law, and international treaties, the contested bells belong to Balangiga.

All US officials directly involved in the Balangiga issue on both sides of the Pacific, including US Army senior leaders and diplomats, have also been one in saying, although quietly, that their government knows that the right, legal and ethical course of action is to return the bells to their rightful place—that is, in Balangiga.

On top of these, the US Congress, through the Unified Code of Military Justice, has provided the US president with the required authority to return the bells regardless of the status of the property rights involved.

"Now that the US government has run out of arguments to skirt the issue of the Balangiga bells, perhaps it is high time for President George Bush to muster his political will to return these bells where they belong, and bring a closure to the last issue of contention between the Philippines and United States related to the Philippine-American War a century ago," Evardone said.

Young cancer patient thanks God, Inquirer readers

By Jolene R. Bulambot
Cebu City

THREE days before his Sept. 15 scheduled operation, June Arceo celebrated his 12th birthday and had only one wish in mind—to survive. He got what he wished for.

Indeed, it was a wish come true for June, a young cancer victim, who just survived the most crucial surgery that would eventually save his life.

Fresh from eight hours of delicate surgery to remove the tumor in his right pelvic area, June could only utter the words "Thank You Lord" when he regained consciousness.

He was also elated when he realized that his leg was not amputated, contrary to what his doctors earlier told him.

"I looked for my parents when I woke up. I was very happy to see them at the recovery room with me. I also smiled when I discovered that my leg was not cut. I really felt scared when they sent me to the operating room. I was trembling in fear and a nun was with me praying before I was finally sedated. I really prayed hard," June said.

Dr. Judith Acol, June's orthopedist, told the INQUIRER Visayas that the tumor grew bigger and covered the entire right pelvis of the patient.

The mass measured 8x9.5x10 centimeters, prompting the doctors to consider amputating the right limb to allow the removal of the tumor.

It was a 'miracle'

However, the doctors later agreed to conduct the "limb salvage surgery" to save the right leg, while successfully removing the tumor.

"Our first priority was to remove the tumor and go on with the chemotherapy. Second, we decided to save the leg even if some nerves connected to it would be affected. We have to sacrifice some parts of the nerves," Acol said.

June would be subjected to intense physical therapy sessions aimed at making him functional, she added.

"Amazingly, the surgery was easier because the chemotherapy really helped. Everything else aside from the leg was okay. June would be trained to move, stand and later walk with a walker and clutches," Acol said.

June, when visited by the INQUIRER three days after the surgery, was recovering fast. After less than two weeks of confinement, he was finally discharged.

June said he was lucky. He thanked those who helped him during his difficult moments.

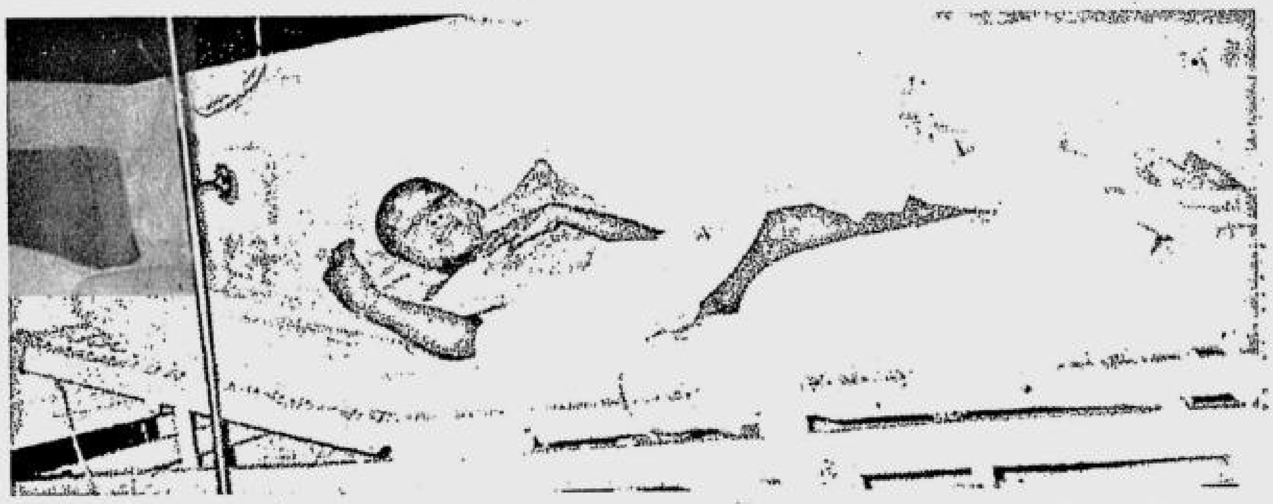
Aside from his loving parents, Joseph and Vilma, the Arceos were not alone. Relatives, friends, colleagues in the workplace and even total strangers offered hope and support to the family.

June said what happened to him was a "miracle."

"I felt I was never alone. I am very happy that people, some of them strangers, supported me. The Lord is so good. I am very grateful," June told the INQUIRER in his hospital bed.

June, who was diagnosed to have been inflicted with soft tissue sarcoma cancer that was already on its fourth stage, was featured in the INQUIRER Visayas on its August 18 issue appealing for help.

When the story was published, June had been responding well and completing the 12 cycles of chemotherapy and was already ready for the surgery to remove the cancer mass that was spread in his abdomen. The only problem then was that his parents did not have the P200,000 needed for the medical procedure.



JUNE Arceo grins when he finds that his leg was not amputated, thanks to timely surgery that was mainly paid for by INQUIRER readers who responded to his plea for help. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Overwhelming help

Joseph, a technician who only earns P6,000 a month, was overwhelmed with gratitude to those who were touched by his son's strong will to live and responded to his son's story.

He told the INQUIRER that the surgery could not have been made possible if not for the donations that poured in from INQUIRER readers.

The elder Arceo said six individuals from Luzon who read the INQUIRER story called him and donated money. They were able to raise more than P60,000 from them. "We are so grateful to the donors. The donation we received did help us since the surgery, medicines and the laboratory expenses cost at least P200,000. The donors were also supportive and we thank them for their comfort and prayers," Joseph said.

The father also said four Filipinos, three working and one studying, abroad also extended financial help upon reading his son's story on Inq7, the INQUIRER's website.

"I never expected this. I was surprised when I got calls and text messages from people saying they're Filipinos working in Saudi, Cyprus and Japan who wanted to help us. We are really very grateful," the teary-eyed father said.

High hopes

Dr. Linda Lipatan, June's pediatric chemotherapy hematologist, said the boy would still have to undergo additional chemotherapy sessions because his cancer cells have spread over his bone marrow area.

The doctor said she was still documenting the result of the bone marrow test, which she conducted before the surgery to determine whether the cancer cells have spread over to the other organs such as the lungs and chest.

But she explained that June's chance of survival was high since he responded well to the first 12 cycles of chemotherapy.

"I have high hopes for June. In two to three weeks from now he would be undergoing another chemotherapy but this time, it's going to be more intense. There could have been lesser risk if the cancer was localized but in his case I haven't finished documenting it," Lipatan said.

Joseph also thanked his colleagues who donated blood and his employer, the Norkis Trading Corp., for standing as a guarantor to the hospital through a letter of authorization.

Lipatan said June's chemotherapy might run for a year, which means additional financial burden for the Arceos.

But Joseph, inspired by the strong will and determination of his son to live, would not stop from finding ways to help the patient.

Those who are interested to help may contact Joseph Arceo at his mobile phone: 0916-7541772.

Bush gives RP special mention on terror fight

From page A1

mentioned alongside Iraq and Afghanistan, Malacañang officials preferred to take this on a positive light.

"It was a pretty straightforward statement on the ongoing fight against terrorism within our shores," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said.

"We did get help from the US in terms of training. Their civic-action projects in the first Balikatan did a lot to rehabilitate Basilan which was the former hotbed of the Abu Sayyaf," he added.

Still on the map

"It's good," Presidential Chief of Staff Norberto Gonzales said when Bush mentioned the Philippines. "The reality is we are on the map of global terrorism and we don't have to hide that."

"It's true that we're doing something against terrorism although we are more JI (Jemaah Islamiyah than al-Qaida)," he said.

Gonzales was former national security adviser who was part of the negotiations for the release of a Filipino truck driver abducted by Iraqi militants last July. He said the Philippines' proximity to Indonesia and the existence of armed groups such as the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in Mindanao made the Philippines a "prime destination of terrorists."

"What I heard recently was that Bush was no longer mentioning the Philippines among the allies but for him to mention us in the debate means we are still in his consciousness," Gonzales said.

Bunye, who watched the US presidential debate, initially begged off from making any comments about Bush, saying it was an "internal matter" for the US.

The debate, held at the University of Miami in Florida, was the first in a series to help undecided American voters choose their next President in the November elections.

"The debate was 'a good exchange," Bunye said. "Both candidates did well."

Bunye said he paid closer attention to the reactions than the actual debate and noted that some comments included the observation that "Bush is a strong leader" and that Kerry "has not shown that he is a really good alternative."

Meanwhile, President Macapagal-Arroyo could not be coaxed into revealing which leader she was rooting for.

Two administration senators, however, did not take too kindly to Bush's claim that Manila was part of the international terrorist network, saying this claim was not only false, it's something the country did not need right now.

Not right

Sen. Manuel Villar Jr. said it was not right for Bush to mention the Philippines in relation to his problem with Iraq.

"He's got a lot of problems in his candidacy right now," Villar said, adding that the US President should not have included the Philippines in his bid for re-election.

He noted that Bush was trying to taint the image of the Philippines in the international community.

"I don't think this is any way to treat a longtime US ally such as the Philippines," Villar said.

Sen. Ralph Recto also reacted: "The world's most powerful man just told a worldwide audience of half-a-billion that the Philippines is a major battleground in the war against terror."

Kerry wins 1st presidential . . .

From page A1

But Kerry managed to deliver his most cogent attack yet on the Iraq war and convey a sense of solidity and coherence in front of the man who has spent months ridiculing him as a weak-kneed waffler.

Very effective

"I think he was very effective at downplaying the argument that he had flipped and flopped on different issues," said David Corbin, a political science professor at the University of New Hampshire.

It was not clear whether Kerry's showing would translate directly into the new support he badly needs to overcome Bush's lead in the polls, generally estimated at five to eight points.

But several analysts said he now had a chance of recharging the somewhat dispirited Democratic ranks and winning back anti-Bush voters who had deserted him amid doubts about his leadership.

The debate was make-or-break for Kerry, whose campaign had been reeling from relentless Republican assaults on his credibility, toughness and vaunted combat record in the Vietnam war.

Kerry charged that Bush committed "a colossal error" by invading Iraq, as tens of millions of Americans watched the televised confrontation.

'Mixed messages'

Bush countered that Kerry was undermining US credibility in the war on terrorism with "mixed messages" about whether toppling Saddam Hussein was worth the cost.

"What message does that send our troops? What message does that send to our allies? What message does that send the Iraqis?" the Republican incumbent asked.

Iraq and national security dominated as the two candidates battled over how to stabilize that war-torn country, where more than 1,000 US soldiers have died amid deadly chaos that shows no sign of ebbing.

Kerry threw the first punch in the political prizefight by confidently declaring "I can do a better job" on Iraq and on averting another terrorist attack like the Sept. 11, 2001 strikes.

He also charged Bush unnecessarily diverted resources from the hunt for Osama bin Laden to the war in Iraq, saying: "This president has made, I regret to say, a colossal error of judgment. And judgment is what we look for in the president."

"The world is better off without Saddam Hussein," said the president, who painted his rival as fickle on crucial national security issues, noting he voted to authorize the Iraq war in 2002 but was against war funding in 2003.

"We're not going to achieve our objective if we send mixed signals to our troops, our friends, the Iraqi citizens," said Bush. "You cannot lead if you send mixed messages."

"I've had one position, one consistent position, that Saddam Hussein was a threat. There was a right way to disarm him and a wrong way. And the president chose the wrong way," countered the Massachusetts senator.

Worldwide popularity

Kerry has accused Bush of fracturing alliances and damaging US global standing in the rush to war; Bush has charged Kerry is more worried about worldwide popularity than protecting the United States.

Both sides predictably claimed victory.

The Republicans said Bush effectively highlighted the mixed signals the Democrat was sending on Iraq. They said the president made a compelling case for more time to finish the war on terror he started after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.

Democrats hailed their candidate for hammering away at the war in Iraq as a diversion from the real battle against al-Qaida terrorists and building his credentials as a smarter, more effective commander.

Kerry also tried to cover confusion over his various votes in the Senate on Iraq by acknowledging that he might have flubbed some of his rhetoric, but Bush's muddled invasion was much worse.

Losing steam

While Bush started strong in holding himself out as the best hope for keeping the United States safe, some analysts said, he appeared to lose steam and showed some irritation towards the middle of the debate before closing with a flourish. *AFP*

Debate show: No surprises despite hype

NEW YORK—A TV review of Thursday's presidential debate could have mostly been written before airtime. And it was, by many critics.

There were no surprises in this 90-minute quiz show costarring President George W. Bush and his Democratic challenger, Sen. John Kerry.

For days, the importance of the debate had been drummed by the media in lively terms.

"This is combat, and somebody will lose," said Ron Reagan Jr. on MSNBC just moments before the debate began.

Bush and Kerry would soon be "duking it out," said Fox News Channel's Shepard Smith, soft-peddling the fact that neither candidate could invade the other's space three meters away, or even ask the other a direct question.

All that and more was covered in the "Memorandum of Understanding," a 32-page tip sheet to what would transpire. Negotiated in self-defense by representatives of both candidates, this contract also covered podium height, 30-second countdown lights, the format of the questioning and many other details in an effort to leave nothing needlessly to chance—and to prevent a damaging mistake.

The most radical departure from the contract's terms were the networks' frequent split-screen shots, showing one candidate's response to the other's remarks.

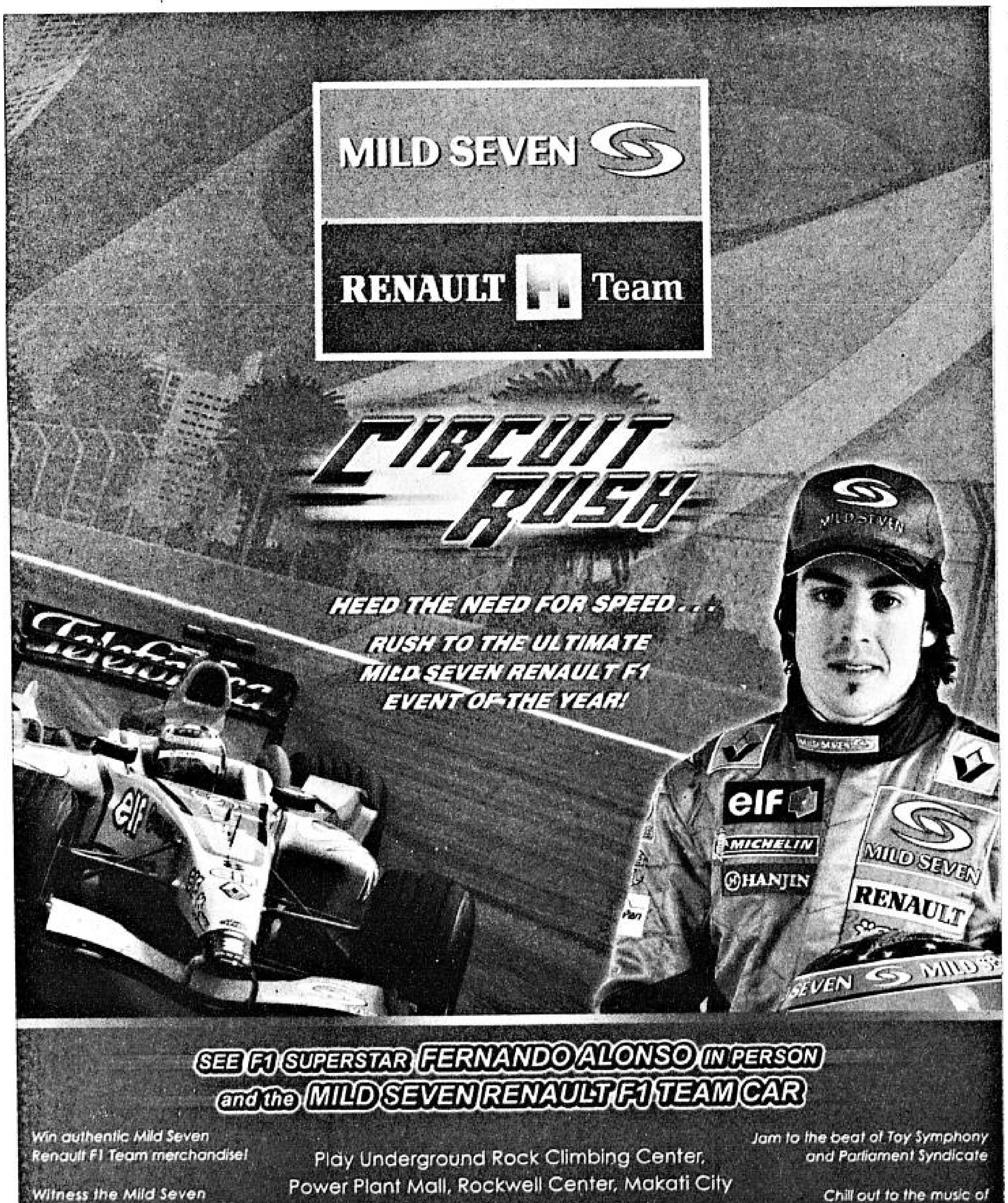
While Kerry spoke, Bush more than once was glimpsed blinking and looking annoyed.

While Bush spoke, Kerry often appeared to scribble notes.

"John Kerry was clearly aware that the camera might always be on him," said CNN's Jeff Greenfield, who added that, to a viewer confronting the two images, "it does seem to me that John Kerry looked—and I hate this phrase—as presidential as the president."

Who won? It was a question networks couldn't help making guesses about.

Instant polls by ABC and CBS gave the night to Kerry. *AP*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Chill out to the music of DJ Boyet Almazan

NO MINORS ALLOWED. Open to persons 18 years old and above only. Organizer reserves the right to refuse entry to those without IDs as proof of age.

Government Warning :
Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

Popular . . .

From page A1

native to drugs like aspirin that can cause ulcers and gastrointestinal bleeding. It has been marketed in more than 80 countries.

The decision to remove the drug from the market is the largest drug recall in history as measured by sales.

Merck stock plunged 27 percent Thursday on the news, reducing the company's stock market value by $25 billion and helping pull the Dow Jones industrial average down by 0.6 percent for the day.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit said he had not heard from the local distributor of the drug concerning the Vioxx pullout.

Dayrit said that the Philippine General Hospital had admitted cases of Filipino patients suffering from side-effects after an intake of Vioxx.

"If there has been a worldwide pullout then the order from the Bureau of Food and Drugs should be out soon as well," Dayrit told the INQUIRER.

Results of study

Merck decided to pull the drug from pharmacy shelves after a study that it hoped would show Vioxx prevented colon polyps, which can sometimes become cancerous. Instead, the study showed that the drug led to heart attacks and strokes. After getting the results late last week, Merck quickly ended the trial.

The risk was small—15 cases of heart attacks, strokes or blood clots per thousand people over three years compared with 7.5 such events per thousand patients taking a placebo. But the data were so unambiguous that Merck told federal regulators this week that it had halted the trial and would take the drug off the market; it announced that decision Thursday.

"What we found in this study is that beginning after 18 months, there was a discernible and unexpected increase in cardiovascular disease rates," Dr. Peter S. Kim, president of Merck Research Labs, said.

The right thing

"We think Merck did the right thing," said Dr. Steven F. Galston, the acting director of the FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research.

The possibility that Vioxx might increase the risk of heart attacks first emerged three years ago, in a Merck study of 7,000 patients with rheumatoid arthritis.

Vioxx and the two Pfizer arthritis drugs are designed to block inflammation and pain as effectively as standard nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs such as aspirin and ibuprofen, while causing far fewer ulcers and gastrointestinal problems than the older treatments.

Pfizer statement

Pfizer Inc., which markets Celebrex, a competitor of Vioxx, affirmed the safety of Celebrex.

In a statement, Pfizer said over 27 million patients in the United States had been prescribed with Celebrex (celecoxib) and that in the Philippines, there had been over four million prescriptions since its launch. Celebrex was approved by the Philippine Bureau of Food and Drugs in 1999.

"Pfizer is confident in the long-term cardiovascular safety of Celebrex," said Dr. Joe Feczko, Pfizer president of worldwide development.

US regulators said drugs in the same category as the withdrawn Vioxx would get close scrutiny to see if they also could cause heart attacks.

"We are going to be more interested in looking at long-term data on new products that come down the pike," Dr. Steven Galson, acting director of the Food and Drug Administration's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, told reporters.

More lawsuits?

An Oklahoma lawsuit filed on Thursday charging that Merck & Co. misled patients about the safety of its arthritis drug may signal many more such suits against the drugmaker following its withdrawal of Vioxx, legal experts said.

The suit, filed on behalf of an Oklahoma County resident but likely to become a class-action effort, alleges Vioxx raises the risk of heart attack, blood clots and other serious cardiovascular events, which can lead to injuries and death.

"In America we sue," said Anthony Sabino, associate professor of law at St. John's University in New York. "This is very much a visceral reaction by the market, but I have to say it is an overreaction."

No cover-up

"Merck took proactive action.... There was not an ounce of cover-up," he said.

The Vioxx withdrawal mirrors similar health-related actions such as Bayer AG's 2001 decision to pull cholesterol drug Baycol off the market after it was linked to severe muscle weakness and Wyeth's 1997 recall of diet drug fen-phen, which was tied to heart-valve damage and a deadly lung condition. *New York Times, Agence France-Presse, Reuters, AP and Blanche Rivera*

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7 suspected robbers dead in shootout

By Leila B. Salaverria

SEVEN suspected members of a robbery group were killed after they shot it out with operatives of the National Bureau of Investigation and the Philippine National Police along the South Luzon Expressway in Laguna yesterday afternoon.

The suspects, said to be members of the Digoy robbery group, were reportedly on their way to Manila after they had allegedly robbed businessman Eddie Lim in Barangay Looc, Calamba, Laguna earlier, said NBI-National Capital Region director Edmund Arugay.

Arugay headed the NBI team that participated in the operation.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco, who had also rushed to the scene, said in a radio interview later that three or four suspects had escaped. None of the identities of the seven fatalities were immediately available.

According to Arugay, a joint team of police and NBI agents were tracking down the suspects' yellow Ford Fiera (PRJ-407) when they sensed the lawmen's presence.

Shots then rang out from the suspects' vehicle, prompting the operatives to retaliate, Arugay added. After an exchange of gunfire for several minutes near the Southwoods exit on the Manila-bound lane of the SLEX, seven suspects lay dead. None of the policemen or NBI agents were hurt.

Recovered from the Fiera were an undetermined amount of cash, a shotgun and several short firearms, and police uniforms believed to have been used by the suspects.

Arugay explained that the NBI had learned earlier that the Digoy group would strike Friday, but they did not know where.

Later in the afternoon, the NBI received a tip that the group had just struck in Barangay Looc in Calamba at around 2 p.m.

Upon receiving the information, the NBI called up the National Capital Region Police Office to request backup, then waited for the suspects at the Southwoods exit.

Arugay said members of the Digoy group wear uniforms whenever they rob establishments to initially ward off suspicions about their activities.

He said that when the group conducted the Calamba robbery earlier, the suspects were also in police uniform.

The NBI official added that the group usually robbed gasoline stations and private establishments. *With Christian V. Esguerra and Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

END OF the road for seven alleged members of the Digoy group suspected of holding up a businessman in Calamba yesterday before one of them was gunned down by police and National Bureau of Investigation agents. RUDY ESPERAS

AUV Express coming up, but jeeps and buses need not worry

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE AUV Express is coming to town.

Air-conditioned 10-seaters, more popularly known as the "FX," will soon have regular terminals where passengers can get a ride. The transportation department is preparing an order that would define the franchise of the loosely-regulated FX or public Asian Utility Vehicles, according to transport officials.

The catch is, the vehicles can't pick up or drop off their riders except at the terminals. An AUV Express must fill up the seats from the terminal and drop all passengers to the end point or the other terminal so they do not compete with the jeepneys and buses.

The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board said it was just waiting for a department order before releasing a set of parameters that would "legalize" the operations of the AUV Express.

The yellow-plate AUVs, according to LTFRB chair Maria Elena Bautista, were currently operating "outside the provisions of their franchise." She said these are different from the "mega taxis" or yellow-plate AUVs with meters, which should operate like a cab.

"In the meantime, we are not apprehending the AUVs while the department order has not been released," said the LTFRB chief.

Bautista said that once the department order is out, her agency would allow 9,044 franchises currently in limbo to be converted into franchises for the AUV Express.

She said they hope to implement the order before Christmas so the system would be in place before the holiday traffic worsens.

The LTFRB had identified 190 routes and 380 terminals for the AUV Express, with each route not to exceed 35 kilometers.

"The idea is for the AUVs not to compete with jeeps and buses, so it's an end-to-end route," said Bautista. "And it should not be more than 35 kilometers because AUVs are not designed as mass transit," she added.

Bautista said the LTFRB was likely to adopt the fare scheme of vehicles-for-hire, that is, P6 for the first 5 km and P1 for every succeeding km. For-hire vehicles are seeking a fare hike to P10 for the first 5 km and P1.50 for each additional km.

"The AUV Express fare scheme would be similar to the vehicles-for-hire. The difference is the Express could charge per head. For-hire vehicles would base their fares on the distance," said Bautista.

Nanny foils abduction try

By Nancy C. Carvajal

A NANNY's presence of mind prevented abductors from running off with the five-month-old son of a television reporter in Las Piñas yesterday morning.

Three suspected members of a child trafficking syndicate were arrested yesterday after they allegedly tried to abduct the son of IBC-13 television journalist Dave Lebanes.

"The *yaya* (nanny)was able to run inside a neighbor's house to seek help," Lebanes said in a telephone interview. The incident took place in front of the victim's house in Sta. Cecilia Village, Las Piñas.

According to Lebanes, the child's nanny, Julie Payamay, as her habit, would take her ward out of the house for some sun every morning after he left for work.

Police said that the suspects chanced upon Payamay and offered her an undetermined amount of money in exchange for her ward.

When the nanny refused, the suspects—Nav Kamal Singh, Gian Singh and their driver Juanito Sopsip, of 1339 Mactan St., Baclaran, Parañaque City—drove away in a maroon Starex van with plate number CSP-531.

But the suspects reportedly returned after a few minutes and tried to grab the child from the nanny's arms.

As she ran to a neighbor's house for help, other neighbors called up the village security officers who coordinated with the police in apprehending the suspects.

Responding policemen were able to stop the van after a brief chase inside the village. All entrance and exit points of the village had been closed to stop the suspects from fleeing the area.

The three denied the charges. Police said the suspects reeked of alcohol when they were arrested.

SPO2 Romeo Britanico said they would conduct further investigation to see if the suspects had any record or had been previously charged with child trafficking.

Firemen found drinking under fire

By Nelson F. Flores and Tina G. Santos

INTERIOR Secretary Angelo Reyes yesterday ordered the relief of a ranking fire official and two firemen who were caught drinking while on duty inside a fire station in Quezon City last Thursday.

At the same time, Reyes directed Interior Undersecretary for Peace and Order Marius Corpus to investigate the incident and initiate appropriate proceedings if the charges were proven.

As a consequence, Corpus ordered the relief of Fire Chief Insp. Isagani Abboc, Fire Officers 2 Rommel Montelana and Reynaldo Binuya, all of the Agham Fire Station along Agham Road.

He said Abboc was relieved based on the principle of command responsibility.

Montelana and Binuya, on the other hand, were dismissed from their posts after they were caught drinking inside the fire station.

Records showed that Quezon City Fire Station personnel chief Romeo Rillo received reports and text messages from concerned citizens about an ongoing drinking session inside the Agham Fire Station on Thursday.

Accompanied by two policemen, Rillo went to the fire station to check the veracity of the report and found Montelana and Binuya drinking on the job.

Inappropriate wear

The two were dressed in undershirts and wore slippers, Rillo added.

A woman clad in shorts and four other unidentified men were also seen inside the station, he said.

Residents also claimed that they heard gunfire coming from the station, prompting them to report the incident to authorities.

Corpus said the firemen could be dismissed from the service if found guilty of violating the rules implementing Republic Act 6713 (the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standard for Public Officials and Employees).

Help comes to Jocelyn and Joe

By Tarra V. Quismundo

SHE FELT lighter in more ways than one.

A day after giving birth to triplets, Jocelyn Cervantes now has a ready smile for her visitors. Except for occasional pains, after effects of her delivery by cesarean section, the 29-year-old first-time mother is now free from money woes that hounded her a day ago.

"*Maluwag na ang pakiramdam ko* (I can breathe easily now)," said Jocelyn from her bed at the ward of the Maternal High Risk and Kangaroo Mother Care Unitward of Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital, which she shares with 50 other new mothers.

The state-run hospital, where Jocelyn gave birth to three babies on Thursday morning, would shoulder the expenses of her delivery and medication, and treatment for the premature triplets who have been placed inside incubators for an indefinite period.

"Based on our social classification system, the Cervantes couple are indigents, which means that the hospital will fully subsidize all the medical needs of the triplets and the mother," said hospital director Ruben Flores.

Jocelyn and Jose were married four years ago in a mass wedding ceremony in West Fairview, Quezon City.

Jose, 25, a part-time waiter, and Jocelyn, a housewife, had been unable to prepare for the coming of one baby, let alone three. But after an evaluation of their financial status, the hospital decided to pay for all the triplets' medical needs and Jocelyn's operation and recovery.

Flores said he expects the hospital bills to run to almost P500,000.

The hospital, which charges a subsidized amount to better-off patients, had already spent P10,000 for Jocelyn's C-section delivery. For the triplets, the hospital bought three vials of surfactant, medication that helps the premature babies' lungs to mature. This medicine alone costs around P75,000.

The babies are currently being administered surfactant inside the hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit while under observation, as complications may arise in their first three days, said Dr. Mary Anne Ilao, attending neonatologist.

Though born underweight, Joshua Jay, Jovelyn and Jonalyn, called by the hospital staff as babies A, B and C, are doing just fine, besides predictable complications, said Ilao.

"All pre-term (premature) babies face risks. But two of the babies are stable. We are just a bit worried with baby C," Ilao related.

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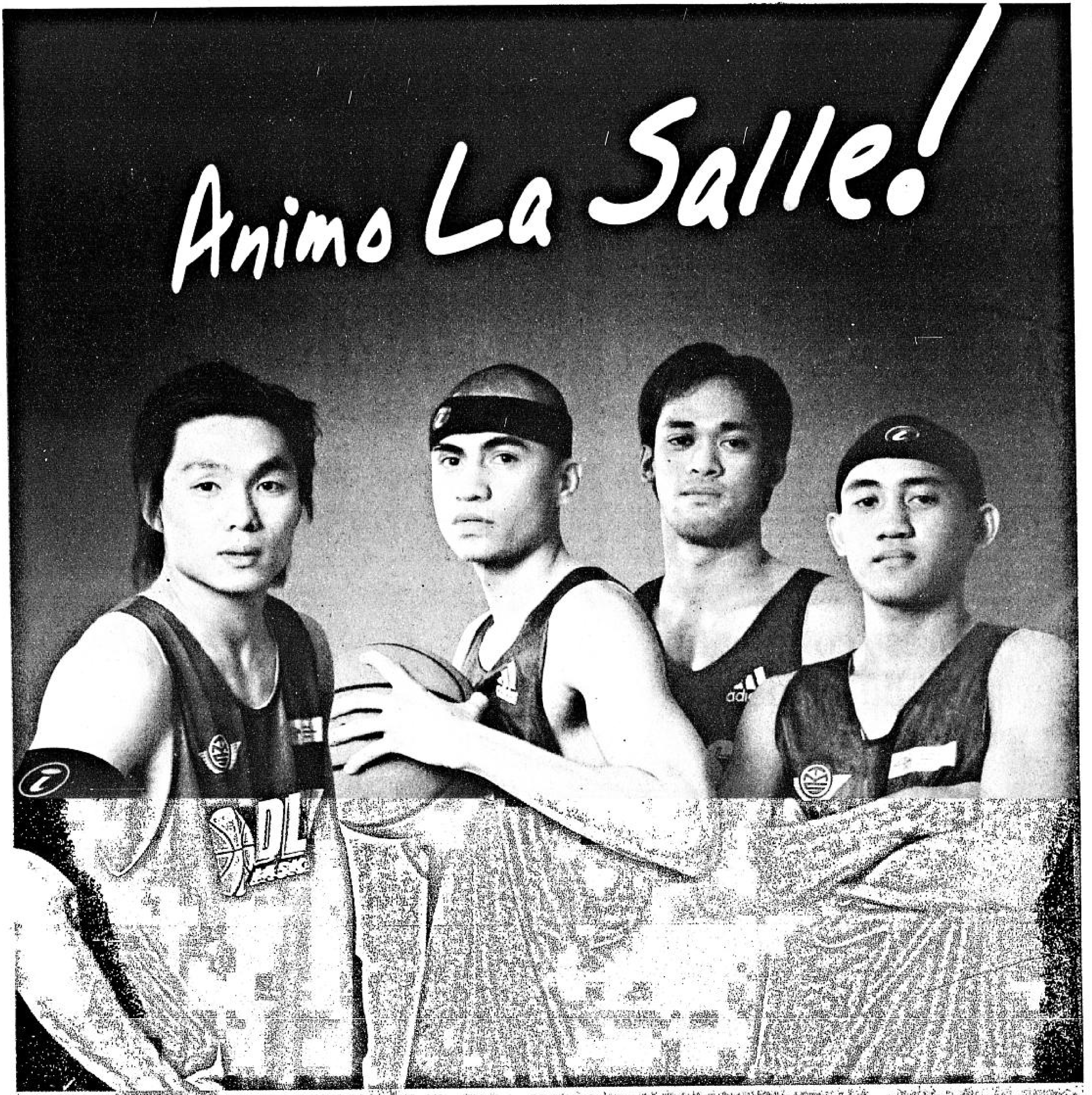
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100692	UAAP Larry Fonacier	Larry Fonacier
100701	DLSU	DLSU Pep Squad
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100707	[illegible]	DLSU Pep Squad
100708	UAAP Green Archers	Green Archers
100709	UAAP Mac Cardona	Mac Cardona
100710	UAAP Player Specialties	J. Yeo, P. Bugia, D. Miranda, K. Bono
100713	UAAP True King	J. Gaco, L. Fonacier, J. Vizcarra, J. Casio, M. Isip
100714	UAAP Tunay na Champion	D. Miranda, LA Tenorio, C. Luanzon, TY Tang
100715	Falcons Let's Go	Adamson Pep Squad
100716	Falcons	Adamson Pep Squad
100717	Falcons Go	Adamson Pep Squad
100718	Almighty Falcons	Adamson Pep Squad
100719	Let's Go Falcons	Adamson Pep Squad
100720	UAAP Falcons	Falcons
100724	Blue Eagle Spelling	Blue Babble Battalion
100725	[illegible]	Blue Babble Battalion
100726	[illegible]	Blue Babble Battalion
100727	[illegible] Yell	Blue Babble Battalion
100728	Three Fights	Blue Babble Battalion
100961	[illegible]	NU Pep Squad
100962	Go Fight	NU Pep Squad

100963	Bulldogs Fight	NU Pep Squad
100964	National Spelling Yell	NU Pep Squad
100993	Let's Go Tamaraws	FEU Cheering Squad
100994	Clapping Yell	FEU Cheering Squad
100995	Here We Come	FEU Cheering Squad
100996	Let's Go Clap	FEU Cheering Squad
100997	FEU Forever	FEU Cheering Squad
100998	Green and Gold	FEU Cheering Squad
100999	Go Fight Tamaraws	FEU Cheering Squad
101142	[illegible]	UE Pep Squad
101143	Go Fight Red and White	UE Pep Squad
101144	UE Hooray!	UE Pep Squad
101145	Five-O	UE Pep Squad
101146	G1	UE Pep Squad
101147	Pamantasan Yell	UE Pep Squad
101148	Cage	UE Pep Squad
100693	Go USTe	UST Yellow Jackets
100694	Ocho	UST Yellow Jackets
100695	Slayer	UST Yellow Jackets
100696	GST	UST Yellow Jackets
100697	Viva Sto. Tomas	UST Yellow Jackets
100698	Nightmare	UST Yellow Jackets
100699	Black Gold - Black White	UST Yellow Jackets
100700	Tomasino	UST Yellow Jackets
100686	UAAP Growling Tigers	C. Luanzon, J. Vizcarra
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Compiled by L. Manguiat

GOLF: American Express Championships; tomorrow at 1 a.m.; Sports Plus—It's Day Three of this big-time event.

BASEBALL: MLB—Dodgers vs Giants; 10 a.m. (r-7 p.m.); Braves vs Cubs: tomorrow at 2 a.m.; ESPN—LA battles San Francisco for the top spot in the NL West while Atlanta takes on Chicago.

TENNIS: ATP Thailand Open; 3:30 p.m. and tomorrow at 2 a.m.; Star Sports—The semifinals kick off in Bangkok.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: NFL—Packers vs Colts; 5 p.m. (r); Sports Plus— Catch the replay of the battle between Green Bay and Indianapolis.

1 DAY NA LANG
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Genuine Fil-Ams cry foul

By June Navarro

SAYING it's unfair to them, a handful of Fil-Ams with unquestionable papers said yesterday they, too, hoped for an immediate resolution of the case regarding Filipino-foreign players who allegedly faked their citizenship.

Noy Castillo and Mike Hrabak, detesting the presence of questionable cagers in other ballclubs, stressed that "Fil-Shams" put the image of the genuine Fil-fors in a bad light.

"I don't have access to their papers but I think it's quite unfair to the real Fil-Ams," said Hrabak, who was traded from the Turbochargers to Purefoods last month.

"I'm sure there's quite a few fake Fil-fors in other teams," added Castillo, a product of The Citadel in the US NCAA Division I circuit.

Talk 'N Text point guard Jimmy Alapag said he also hoped for a speedy resolution of the case, stressing "if there's a finality, then we can just move on without the doubts and play basketball."

"If there's no finality, it's hard for the league, it's hard for the fans and it's going to be hard for the players because there always will be doubts," said Alapag.

Alapag's teammate, Asi Taulava, is among the players the Senate recommended for deportation last year after its findings showed they had dubious citizenship papers.

The others are Red Bull's Davonn Harp, Jon Ordonio and Mick Pennisi, Coca-Cola's Rafi Reavis and Rudy Hatfield, Barangay Ginebra's Andy Seigle and Alex Crisano and San Miguel's Dorian Peña.

Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio and several other locals in the Hotdogs squad also sought the end of the controversy, saying fake Fil-fors give other teams undue advantage.

"FedEx, Sta. Lucia Realty, Shell and our team are always at the bottom of the standings simply because we don't have players who play like imports," said Gregorio.

Team captain and assistant playing coach Alvin Patrimonio, meanwhile, expressed satisfaction on the initiative by Sen. Lito Lapid and the Department of Justice to expedite the cases of the Fil-fors, which was shelved more than a year ago.

ALAPAG: Hoping for a speedy resolution.

Red Bull airs side on brawl

"WE demanded an explanation but heard nothing from the organizers; we were driven out of the tournament just like that."

VILLANUEVA

Red Bull team manager Tony Chua gave this statement after the Barakos arrived yesterday from Brunei where the entire team was disqualified after a fight-marred game against a Korean ballclub in the 4th Shell Rimula Sultan's Cup.

Chua claimed their pleas fell on deaf ears.

"We wasted time, effort and money after the team prepared very hard for the opening of the PBA only to get this," he added.

Enrico Villanueva triggered the melee when he punched a Korean cager for hitting the 6-foot-5 Barako in the neck with less than a minute remaining in the game.

Villanueva said authorities questioned him after the game but denied being jailed or detained after the fracas that prompted both teams to storm onto the court.

"That player was physical throughout. He kept on hitting us with cheap shots. Testing the extent of my patience, he had suddenly gotten into my nerves that I felt there was no way to defend myself but to hit him in the face," said Villanueva.

Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao said the officiating was one of the worst he had seen.

"At this level of competition, each team should bring a referee to explain to the referees of the other countries the intricacies involved in the game. Without an international referee in the delegation, it's hard to communicate," said Guiao.

Guaio added the referees obviously have neither the expertise nor experience in handling such risky situations as evidenced by the poorly officiated games they played prior to the brawl.

Since the Sultan's Cup is a PBA-sanctioned tournament, Guiao said the league should properly consider the well-being of the teams before letting ballclubs plunge into action.

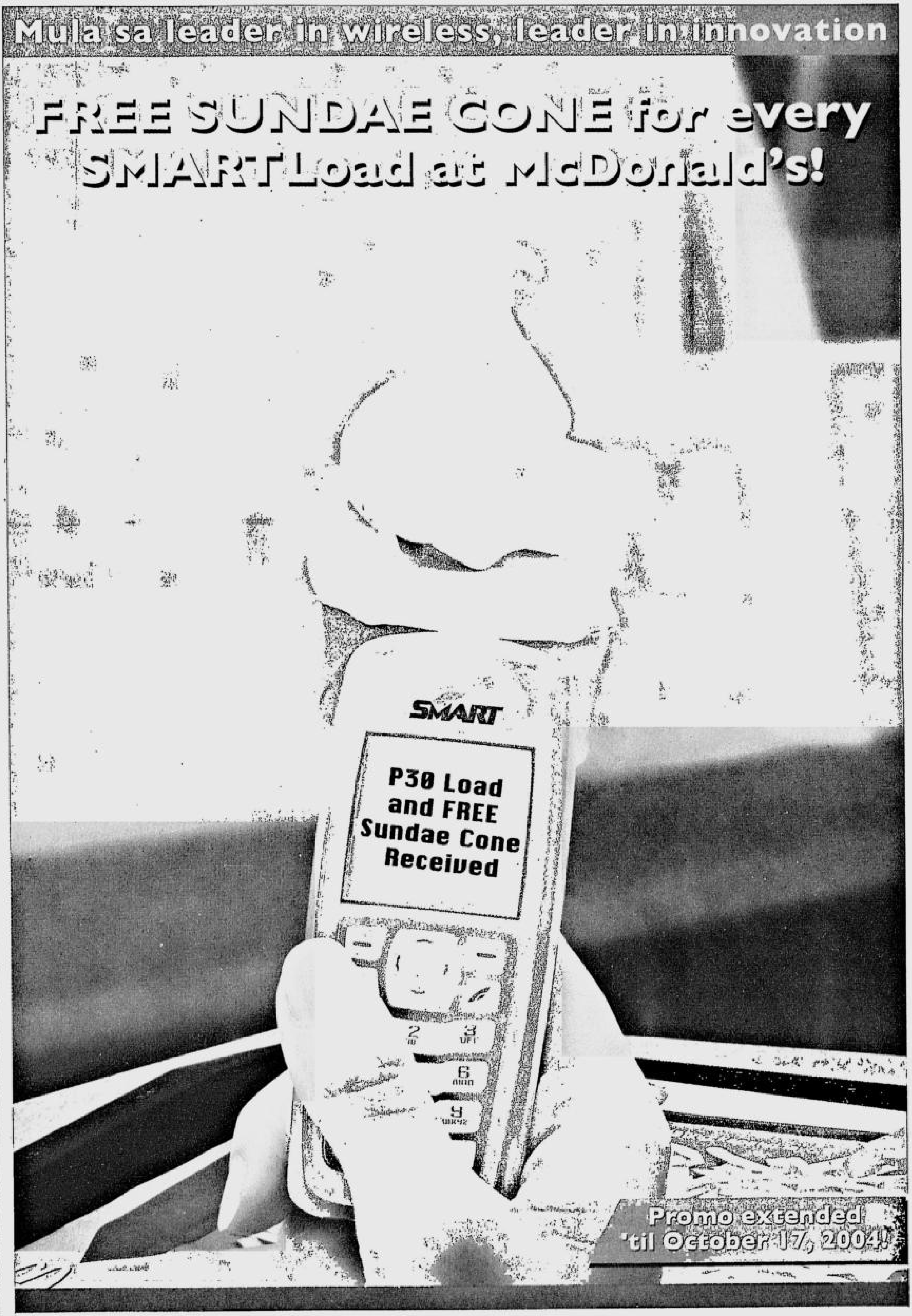
"If it happened elsewhere, Enrico would be thrown out while the rest of the team plays on. The organizers disqualified the team without any explanation at all," said Chua. *June Navarro*

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Hurting Tiger trails by 2 /A32

■ Saragoza coasts to 5-stroke victory /A30

■ Federer advances in Thailand Open /A32



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La Salle needs another great coach after Franz

By Jasmine W. Payo

AFTER the ecstacy, La Salle woke up the morning after with only a short list of possible replacements for its overachieving championship coach.

Franz Pumaren has undeniably pulled an amazing feat in college basketball after steering the Archers to five championships in seven years.

However, his impending departure has left a void that the UAAP champion team has started to feel this early.

"Many people now want him back next year. After the game, everyone was chanting 'one more year,'" said La Salle team manager Terry Capistrano. "But I think the fact that he announced it, it's a strong indication that that's it. He needs to rest. It's about time he takes a break, seven years can be tiring. So the best thing to do is to let him unwind."

Relieved

Pumaren, indeed, looked relieved after the Archers bagged the championship by unseating defending titlist Far Eastern U Tamaraws in a dramatic 68-65 victory last Thursday.

"I think I've accomplished everything any college coach could wish for," noted Pumaren, who wrapped up his seven-year stint with an impressive 98-27 win-loss record. "I've given up so many offers in the professional ranks just to coach this team, because that's how much I love coaching college basketball."

"I'm sure the school will try to talk to him. But if he'll reconsider, I think it's a remote possibility," said Capistrano.

La Salle athletic director Danny Jose is similarly doubtful. "The fact that he already announced his desire to step down, it will prompt La Salle to look for a new coach. But we give him credit for the five championships. The school will now have to look around, and maybe we'll have a short list in two to three months," he said.

Reliable

Aside from Pumaren, only forward Jerwin Gaco is leaving the team. All the other reliable players like Mac Cardona, Joseph Yeo, JV Casio, TY Tang and Ryan Araña will be back to defend the title.

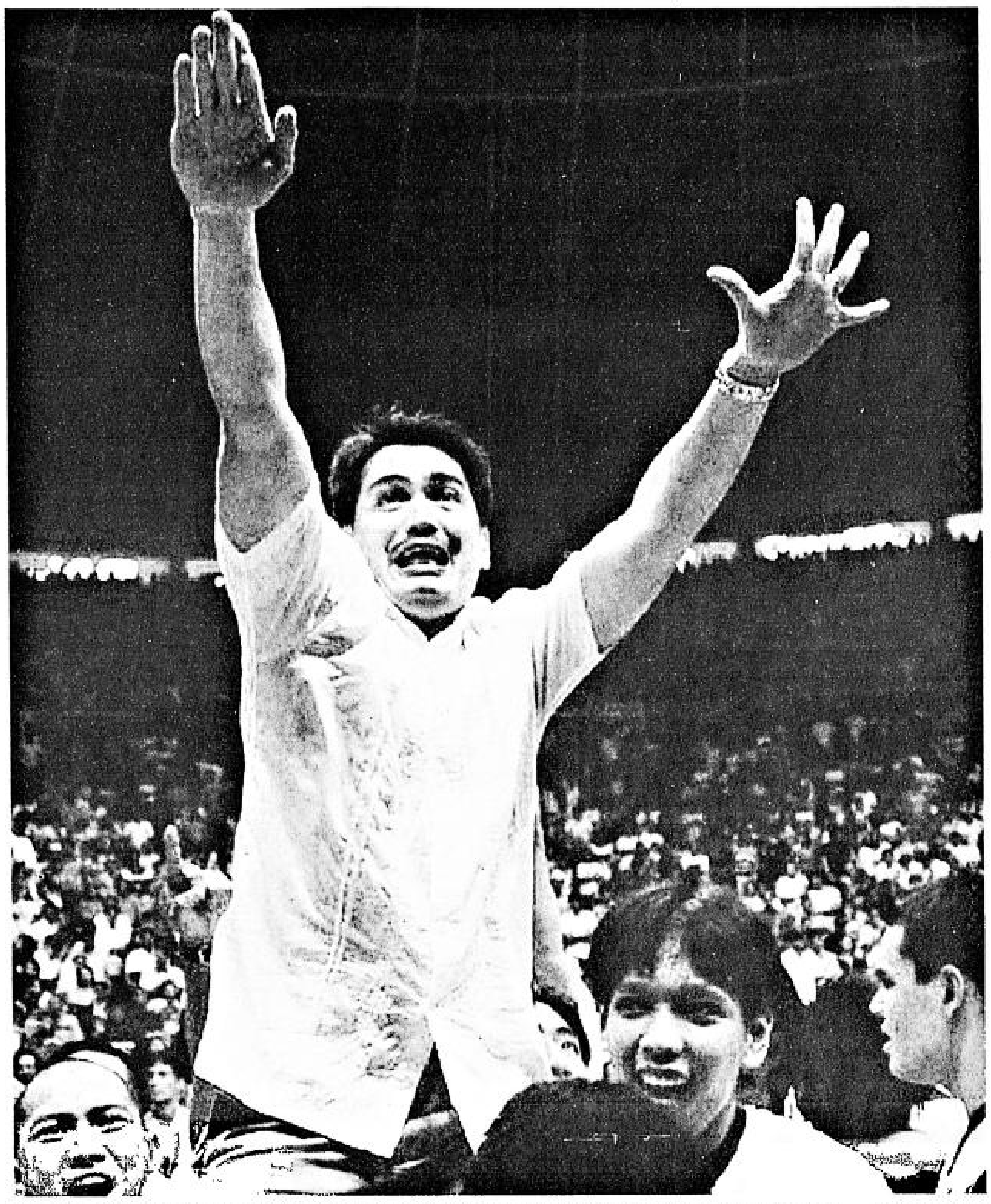
Marco Batricevic, a 6-foot-6 high school standout from La Salle Greenhills, will also beef up the Archers' roster next season.

"He's our main recruit but we're also talking to a couple of other players," disclosed Capistrano.

"Our chances next year are still pretty good," he added.

Indeed, there seems no reason for Pumaren to worry. He has established his dynasty and legacy in La Salle.

He now leaves a team that seems poised to establish a new one. But they'll need another great coach to take them there.


LA Salle coach Franz Pumaren gets a victory ride after the Archers beat the Tamaraws for the UAAP title. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

MAC Cardona celebrates with team manager Terry Capistrano. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

UAAP-NCAA All-Star today

THERE'LL be an abundance of talent as newly crowned UAAP champion De La Salle and NCAA titlist Philippine Christian U lead the cast in the UAAP-NCAA All-Star Showdown today at the Araneta Coliseum.

Kicking off the event is Game 2 of the women's basketball finals between Ateneo and defending champion Adamson at 10 a.m.

Ateneo took Game 1, 67-64, last Thursday.

In the All-Star games, La Salle and Ateneo will team up this time to form the UAAP 2 squad together with standouts from UE and Adamson. They will battle the NCAA 2 team of University of Perpetual Help, San Sebastian San Beda and St. Benilde. Gametime is 5 p.m.

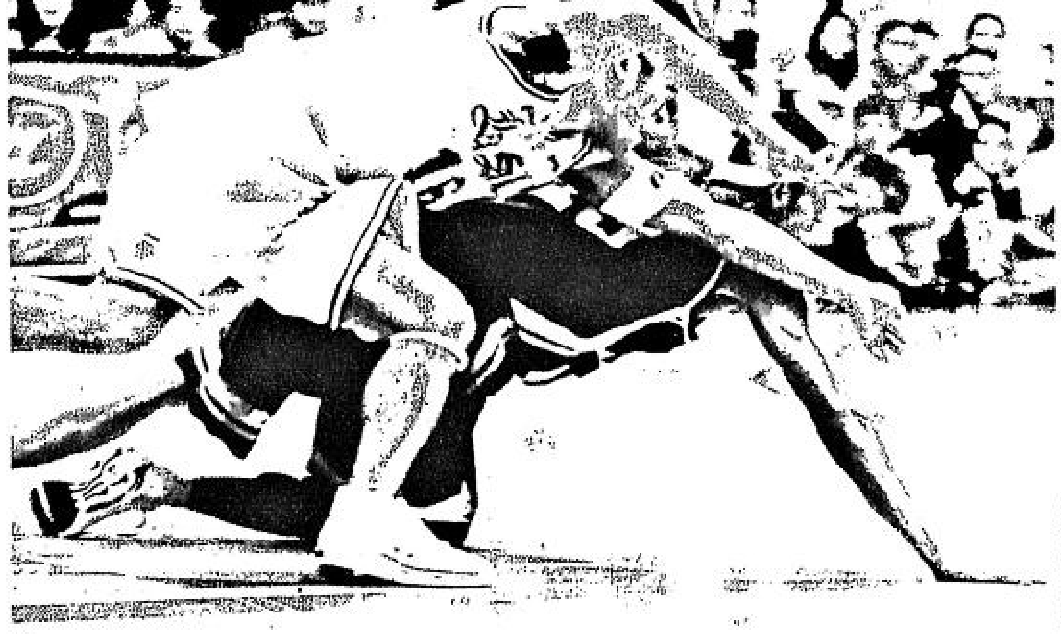
The NCAA 1 group of PCU, Letran, Mapua and Jose Rizal will collide with the UAAP 1 crew of Far Eastern, University of the Philippines, University of Sto. Tomas and National University at 3 p.m.

Coaching UAAP 2 is La Salle's Franz Pumaren, who picked Archers Mac Cardona, Joseph Yeo, TY Tang, Jerwin Gaco, Junjun Cabatu. He added finals hero JV Casio, after Ateneo's LA Tenorio begged off due to a RP team commitment. Also in the fold are Eagles JC Intal and Paolo Bugia, UE's KG Canaleta, Paolo Hubalde and Rookie of the Year Marcy Arellano, and Adamson's Ken Bono.

NCAA 2 mentor Bai Cristobal enlisted Perpetual's Noy Javier, Khiel Misa, Fritz Bauzon, Vladimir Joe, Robert Barnson and Marcel Cuenco. He added SSC's Leo Najorda, Pep Moore and Red Vicente, San Beda's Alex Angeles and Jerome Paterno, and St. Benilde's Jay Sagad.

NCAA 1 coach Loreto Tolentino will bank on PCU's rookie MVP Gabby Espinas, Robert Sanz, Ian Garrido, Mon Retaga, Jason Castro and Joel Solis. Also suiting up are Letran's Mark Andaya and Boyet Bautista, Mapua's Erwin Sta. Maria and Christian Guevarra, and JRU's Mcdo Santos and Marco Fajardo.

FEU's Koy Banal leads UAAP 1 with MVP Arwind Santos, RJ Rizada, Dennis Miranda, Jeff Chan, Don Yabut and Mark Isip, UP's Toti Almeda, Jireh Ibañez and Josant Cervantes, UST's Christian Luanzon and Warren de Guzman, and NU's Rey Mendoza. The event will benefit the Bantay Bata 163 child-aid project. *Jasmine W. Payo*


ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

JERWIN Gaco of La Salle and Arwind Santos dive for the loose ball in the final seconds of the UAAP finals.

Santos torn between turning pro and staying on with FEU

MAYBE it was the frustration of coming to within a follow-up basket of the UAAP title.

Because despite a relatively colorful college career that he can close the book on, Arwind Santos feels he isn't done yet with the UAAP.

And if he can have his way, he's going to play one more season with the FEU Tamaraws next year without compromising his ultimate dream of turning professional.

"I will apply for the PBA draft next year. But if possible, I still want to play for FEU. The PBA season starts after the UAAP, so *baka pwede pa*. It has been done before," said Santos.

La Salle's Don Allado set the precedent in 1999. After being drafted by Alaska, the PBA's top rookie pick still led the Archers to their second straight championship before finally joining the Aces late in the year.

The next PBA rookie draft is tentatively set on Aug. 7, 2005, but the season starts in October, or just around the end of the college season.

But what has been done before was that the UAAP removed the possibility of the Allado incident happening again. In fact, University of the East's James Yap tried to do it this year, but the UAAP ruled that once a player is drafted, he is ineligible to play for his school.

"There is a rule that once your name is called in the draft, you cannot play anymore in the UAAP. That still stands," said UAAP president Danny Jose.

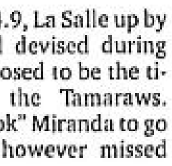
Santos' last chance will be if he can convince next year's board to amend that ruling.

"I'm now the breadwinner. I'm also helping my brother and his family," said Santos, explaining the urge to turn pro next year.

What he can't put to words is the desire to suit up in a Tamaraw uniform one last time. *Jasmine Payo*

Praising Pumaren

SPECTATOR



Al S. Mendoza

AS I said, I expected La Salle to win. So, when the Green Archers defeated the Far Eastern University Tamaraws on Thursday, 68-65, to win the UAAP basketball title two games to one, I was the least surprised.

Hey, fellas, I am not trying to breast-beat. No. It's just that I believed La Salle had the experience, coaching-wise, period.

Never mind the players. Rookies or not, when a good coach is handling them, expect surprises to happen to the team. Even miracles.

In case you missed it, I did also say in my pre-championship forecast here yesterday that the better coach would win it.

Again, I am not trying to breast-beat. No. It's just that La Salle coach Franz Pumaren is so good, foxy even, I am still wondering why nobody's gotten hold of him in the PBA backyard up to now.

He's become too expensive, maybe?

Cut the crap.

I know he gets a princely sum coaching La Salle but that doesn't mean no PBA team can afford Franz Pumaren. Don't they pay 200K a month to even a nondescript coach there? And that amount most team owners would consider starvation pay?

Give me that money and I'll readily reject a column-writing job at the New York Times—even if the offer from the Big Apple biggie beats my pay by a thousand dollars a month.

Two hundred thousand pesos a month in this country, why that's more than enough to make me live like a king in Bogtong Silag, Mangatarem, Pangasinan.

Over there, a kilo of fish like "banak" or "pingaw" or "malaga" can be had at 70 bucks.

Over there, the folk still cherish centuries-old tradition: they allow anyone to pick ready-to-cook vegetables from the backyard without permission from the owner.

Over there, everybody owns everybody's produce: *calamansi*, camote tops, *catuday, kang kong*, string beans, *patola, ampalaya, calabasa*, eggplant, etc.

A bowl of *pinakbet*, with squash flowers in it, was what I had for dinner over there Thursday, an hour or so after La Salle had completed its monumental comeback to the throne since becoming a mere spectator in the UAAP Finals last year between FEU and Ateneo.

No doubt Franz Pumaren was the better coach on Thursday, although FEU coach Koy Banal could not be denied as he had put up a gallant stand in the face of adversity. In fact, I give credit to Koy in the dying seconds of the game, with the crown on the line.

With time down to 24.9, La Salle up by one, 66-65, Koy Banal devised during timeout what was supposed to be the title-winning play for the Tamaraws. Anointing Dennis "Denok" Miranda to go for the kill, Miranda however missed what could have been the most memorable shot on a night filled with thrills and triples.

Although Miranda saw himself being double-teamed, he managed to extricate himself somewhat from the right flank. Getting a view of the ring from the perimeter, he did an off-balanced takeoff and fired. Pitifully, the banked shot circled the ring and rimmed out, eliciting a roar from a crowd that filled every available space at the 20,000-seat Cubao Big Dome.

In the ensuing scramble for the most important rebound of the night, Tamaraw Arwind Santos, the 6-foot-4 2004 MVP, fouled MacMac Cardona, the 6-foot-1 Archer whom Santos defeated for the MVP plum.

With 2.2 seconds left, Cardona coolly sank the free throws and next watched in delight as FEU missed a desperation shot from across the court.

After the game, Cardona said, "I kept telling my teammates, *kaya natin ito*, guys (We can do it, guys)."

Said Frans Pumaren of Cardona, an arm wrapped around Cardona's neck: "This is my MVP."

Sure, Cardona was consistently brilliant all throughout and I raise a glass to him.

But this night of nights, I do not only lift a glass to J-Vee Casio, whose last of three triples with 24.9 ticks left gave La Salle back the lead, 66-65, after Mark Isip put FEU on top, 65-63, on back-to-back hits with 29 seconds remaining. For J-Vee, I will lift a whole bottle of champagne.

"This is a team of destiny," said Franz Pumaren of his boys. "We believed in ourselves—that's the secret of this victory."

From 1998, Franz has given La Salle five UAAP crowns, missing just one Finals appearance in the last seven years of the league. If that's not Hall of Fame stuff, what is?

Yes, Franz, it's time to move on as what you've said in your valedictory speech. Yes, Franz, at the amateur backyard, there's nothing to proye anymore.

PBA, here I come?

Alaska, FedEx to tour malls

MIKE Cortez of Alaska and Renren Ritualo of FedEx are expected to lead their respective teams' appearances at Robinsons Place-Manila and Robinsons-Cainta, respectively, today as part of the ongoing PBA's One-on-One at Robinsons Malls promo tour.

The Alaska and FedEx cagers will meet and greet their fans who will get the chance to have their pictures taken with their favorite players or get their autographs. Both squads will also conduct their respective team marketing days where each team will mount its own activity and do its own event.

Also on tap in the mall-hopping tour, organized by PBA Properties Inc. and supported by Accel, FedEx and Mail and More, is the PBA interactive display, an exhibit composed of a photo gallery, hand and shoe prints, giant inflatable basketballs, graffiti wall, and a half court.

The PBA interactive centers are set up on two designated Robinsons malls each week till Oct. 31 to be spiced up by a rotation of visits by the PBA cagers and teams.

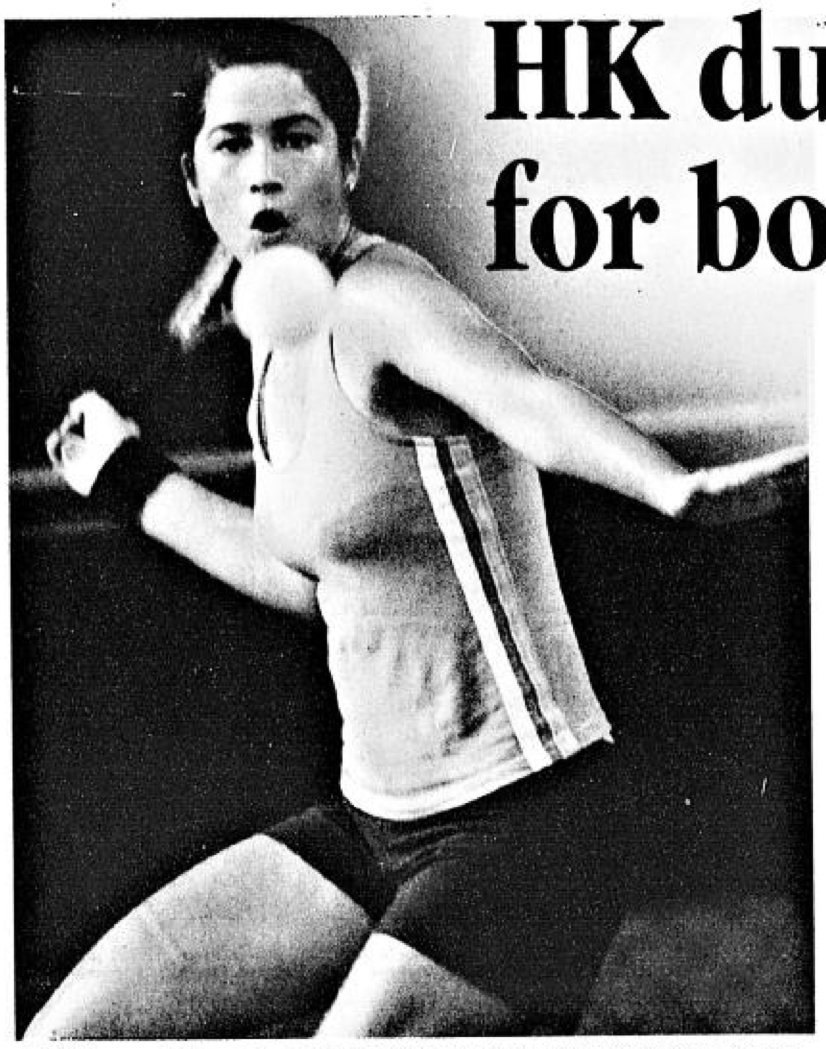
The activities at Robinsons Place-Manila and Robinsons-Cainta will end tomorrow with Robinsons-Novaliches and Robinsons-Imus hosting the event Oct. 4-10.

The event is also expected to drum up interest in the pro league, which kicks off its new season tomorrow featuring San Miguel Beer against Talk 'N Text in the One Philippines Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

Red Bull and Barangay Ginebra players will visit Robinsons-Novaliches and Robinsons-Imus, respectively, on Oct. 9.

The mall-hopping tour will then visit Robinsons-Pampanga and Robinsons-Dasmariñas on Oct. 11-17 featuring Shell and Sta. Lucia, respectively, while Coca-Cola and San Miguel will be at Robinsons-Sta. Rosa and Robinsons-Metro East when the event is next staged on Oct. 18-24.

The series winds up on Oct. 25-31 with Talk 'N Text and Purefoods guesting at Robinsons-Lipa and Robinsons-Galleria, respectively.


ANJA Vanessa Peter, a 17-year-old German student, prepares to return a serve by Chin Seul Ki of South Korea. Peter won.
ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

HK duo drubs RP pair for boys' doubles title

TOP SEEDS Martin Sayer and Lai Xiao Peng of Hong Kong bagged the boys' doubles title by drubbing the second-ranked Filipino pair of Kyle Joshua Dandan and Ralph Kevin Barte, 7-6 (5), 6-3, yesterday in the 2004 Enervon Tablet-Futures Foundation International Juniors Tennis Championships at the Ynares Socio-Cultural Sports Center in Pasig City.

Sayer had earlier advanced to the singles final, beating seventh-seed Ralph Kevin Barte, 6-2, 6-2.

Sayer, ranked No. 174 in the ITF Juniors and the singles top seed, will meet unranked local Nico Riego De Dios at 9 a.m. today.

Riego De Dios pulled off a 7-6 (8), 6-2 upset win over second-ranked Taiwanese Chang Huai-en in the other semifinal match of the event also supported by Unilab, adidas, Prince rackets, Toby's, Nassau balls and Holiday Inn Manila Galleria.

"Chang is an offensive player so I need to change the pace of my ball," said Riego De Dios of Olongapo City.

Riego De Dios, training under former Davis Cupper Beeyong Sison in the Subic Bay International Tennis Academy, expects a strong challenge against the big-serving Sayer.

"Sayer has a good forehand and it will be tough to beat him. But I will do my best," said the 17-year-old Riego De Dios, who also trained in the United States last year.

Playing in the girls' singles final also set at 9 a.m. today are third-seed Filipino-German Anja Vanessa Peter and fifth-seed Japanese Ayumi Okuma.

Peter, 17, ousted top seed Korean Chin Seul Ki, 6-4, 6-1, while Okuma, a 14-year-old netter from Chiba City, outclassed seventh-ranked Korean Jeong Yoon Young, 6-0, 6-1.

"I'm happy to be in the final. I think it will be a tough match. Okuma can play hard and flat ball. She's tough," said the 5-foot-8 Peter, who had competed in European Tennis Association tournaments and was a semifinalist in two ITF Juniors Circuit.

Peter, whose mother is a Filipino, was born in Saudi Arabia and grew up in Moefelden-Waudorf town in Germany.

Meanwhile, today is the start of the two-day qualifying round of the Phinma Group International Juniors Championships slated Oct. 4-10.

SEA Canoe Championships attract 10 national squads

SUBIC BAY—Familiarity of the venue gives Filipino athletes an edge in their bid to provide worthy competition against favored rivals in the fifth Southeast Asian Canoe Championships and the 3rd Junior Southeast Asian Canoe Championships which start today in Subic, Zambales.

This was the assessment of RP team coach Leonor Escollante who has been training her athletes since three weeks ago at the waterfront of the Fisherman's Wharf Resort inside the Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

Leading the host team's bid are Jonard Saren, Southeast Asian record holder of the 1000-m junior kayak single and Ryan Ronald Tabagan. Top bet for the 1000-m K1 is 17-year-old Marvin Amposta who will compete in both the junior and seniors competitions.

Norwell Cajes, who has been a consistent performer in the national pool's time trial, is expected to excel in the 100-m canoe singles.

April Mae Peñalosa, holder of the SEA junior 200-m kayak single, is the top bet in the women's side.

The Philippines grinds it out for three days against nine other Southeast Asian countries, including powerhouse teams Indonesia, Vietnam, Myanmar and Thailand which are expected to crowd it out at the top.

A total of 48 gold medals are up for grabs in the event supported by the PSC, PCSO, Philippine Convention and Visitors Corp., SBMA, Subic Fisherman's Wharf Resort, Subic International Hotel, SMC, Viva Mineral Water, Smart Addict Mobile, McDonalds-Olongapo, Coppertone Sport, Tribu Sandals, Subic Bay Medical Center, Astron Communication Systems, IDG Productions and Penta-Shimizu-Toa Joint Venture.

Filipina booters suffer loss

THE PHILIPPINE women's football squad suffered a 1-0 defeat at the hands of Indonesia Thursday evening but remained in contention in the Asean Football Federation (AFF) Women's Championship in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

A moment's loss of concentration just 10 minutes after kickoff gifted Indonesia with the winning goal in spite of the Filipinas' domination of the last 65 minutes of their inaugural contest. A cracking 30-yard blast by Letecia Bautista before half time almost pulled the fighting Filipinas even. They continued the same attacks in the second half, keeping the Indonesians on the defensive until the last second of the match.

Now in a must-win situation to advance into the semifinal round, the Philippines takes on Singapore this afternoon (Saturday) at 3 p.m.

South favored over North in All-Star

TODAY'S SCHEDULE (*UB GYM*)
7 a.m.—Basketball clinic (7-16 years old)
3 p.m.—Local championship (Skills competition)
5 p.m.—NBC Shoot-out/Slam Dunk finals
7 p.m.—All-Star Game

BAGUIO CITY—Former PBA hotshot Al Solis' South Selection is slightly favored over the North squad when they clash at 7 p.m. today in the NBC (National Basketball Conference) All-Star game at the University of Baguio gym here.

Pre-season MVP Chico Lanete, former pro Ruben de la Rosa, Ardy Larong and ex-NU Bulldog Alfie Grijaldo, all of Tribu Sugbu, will banner the South team.

The other players are Iloilo's Carlos Sayon Jr. and Francis Sanz, Ozamiz Cotta's Egay Echavez, Cagayan de Oro Stars' Jayson Alfeche and Julius Navales, and Tribu Sugbu's Marlon Piodo, who replaced Marlon Basco of Ozamiz.

The NBC All-Star Weekend is sponsored by Baguio Country Club, Concorde Hotel, Gatorade, Gerry's Grill, Chi's Fastfood, Tokyo Tokyo, Four Bar, Angle's Bar, Fillers Bar and Bee-hive Bar.

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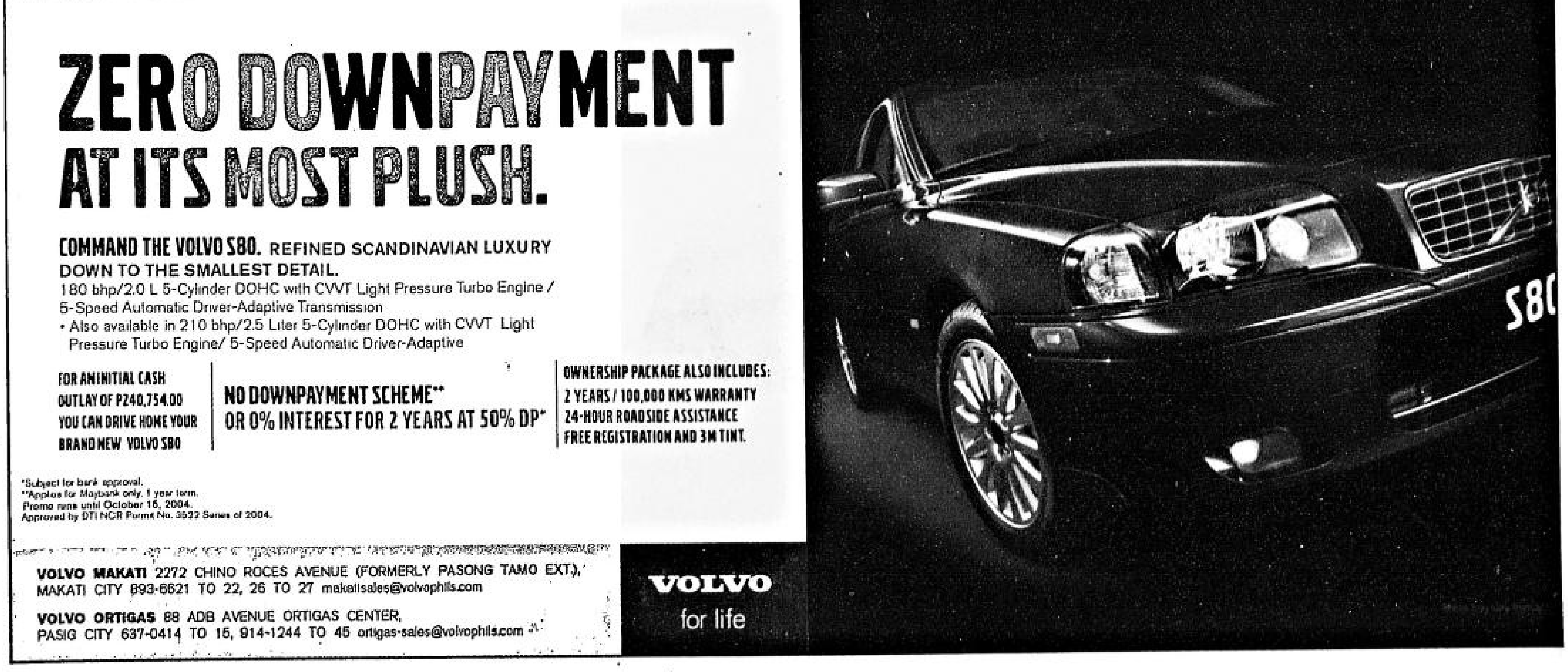
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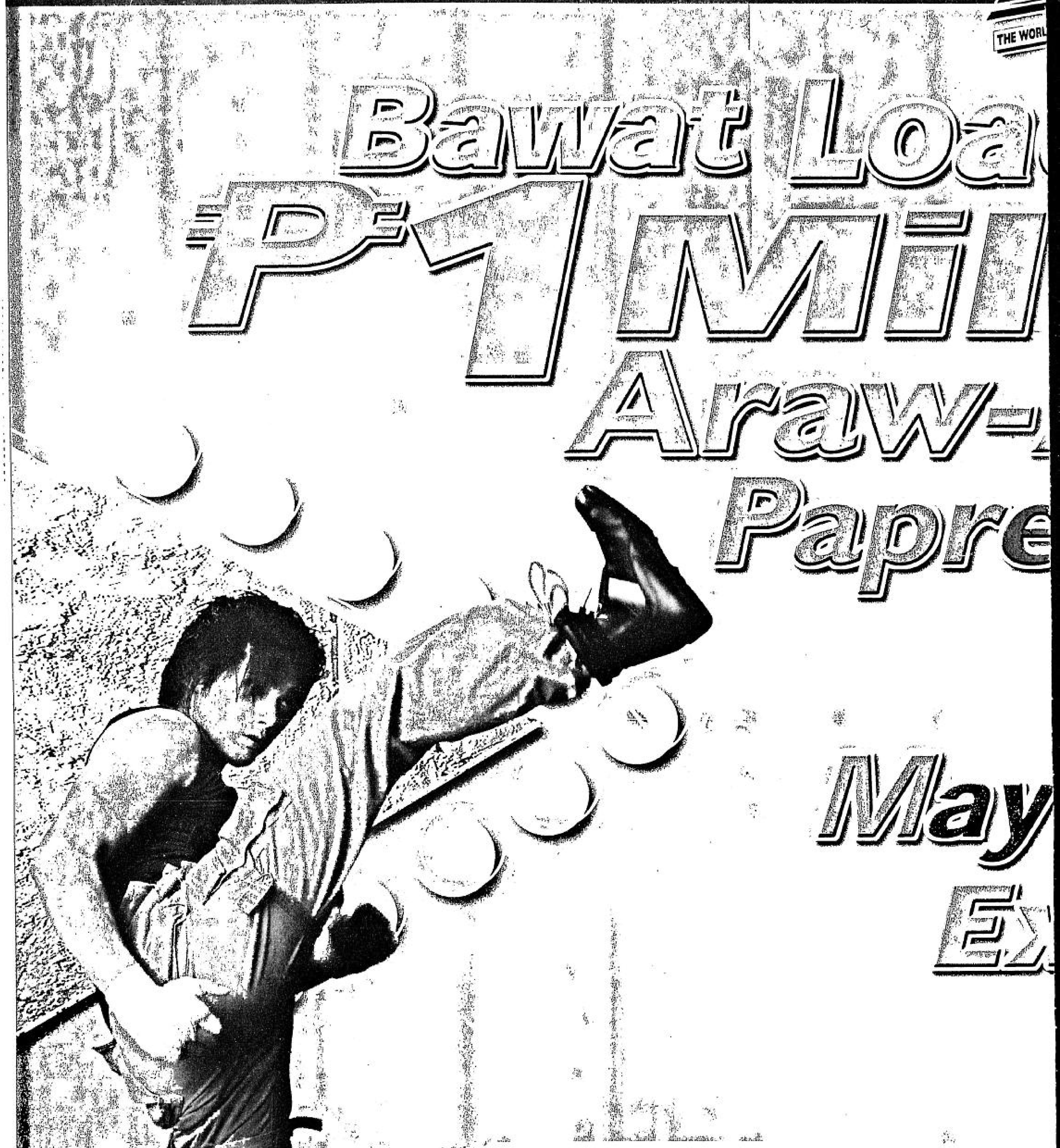
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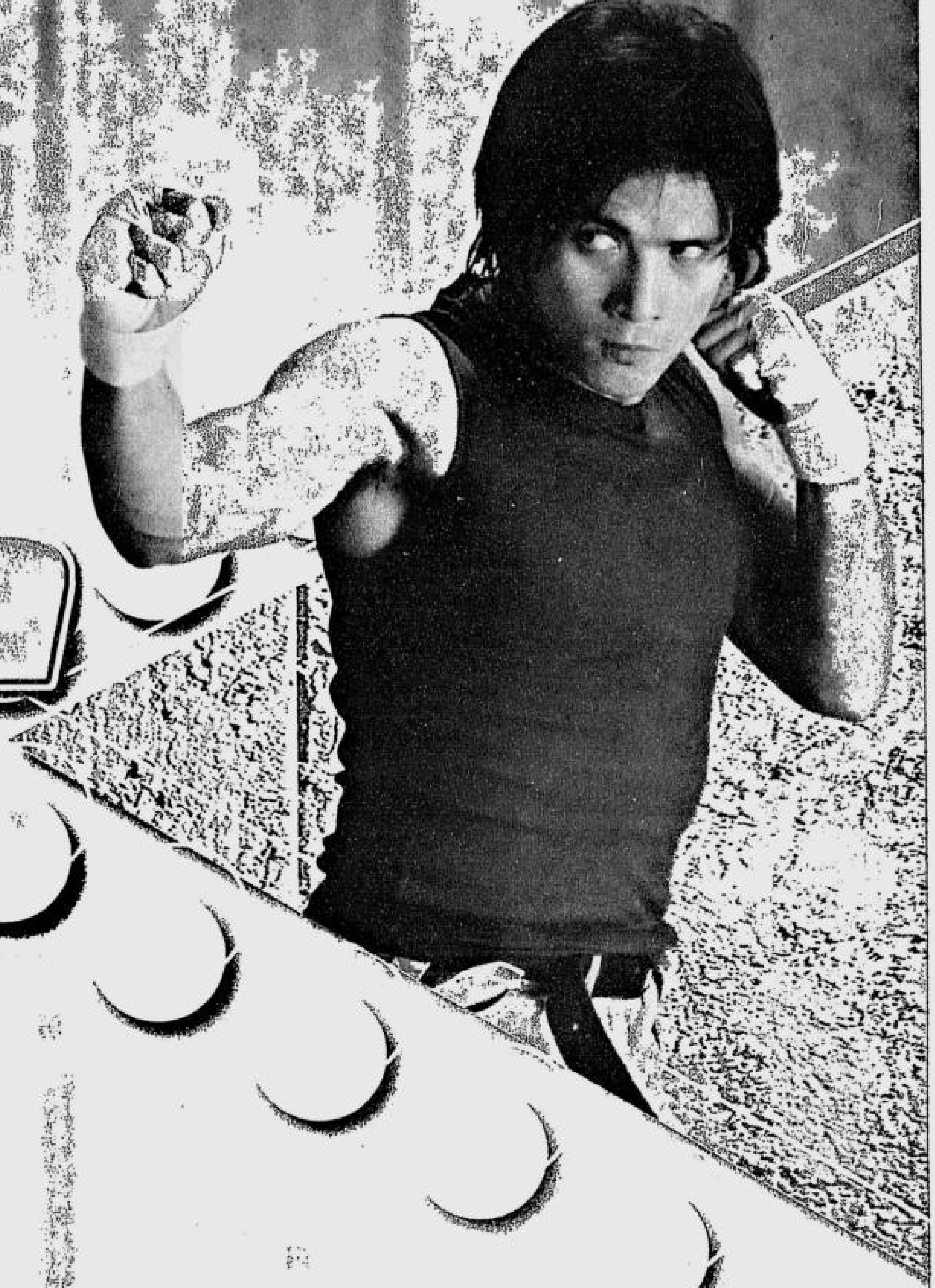

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AMATEUR TOUR

Saragoza coasts to victory

BOYET Saragoza holds off Jun Bernis en route to the title. PDI PHOTO

LIPA, Batangas—Former national player Boyet Saragoza kept a tight watch on Jun Bernis to score a five-stroke victory in the championship division despite a bogey-bogey finish in the fifth leg of the Samsung Amateur Tour eliminations at the Mt. Malarayat Golf and Country Club in Lipa, Batangas.

Saragoza never allowed Bernis, the reigning national amateur champ, to come closer than four strokes early in the final round as he even went up by seven to complete the rout with a closing three-over-par 75 for a 72-hole aggregate of 293.

Bernis, down by five after Round 3, inched to within four twice but couldn't get any closer. The Puerto Rico World Amateur-bound player had a 75 and ended in a tie with Dave Hernandez at 298.

Hernandez, who recently won the Malarayat mid-amateur title, capped a big rally from a woeful 81 in the opening round with a 72.

Saragoza thus joined Juvic Pagunsan and three others in next year's grand finals of the tourney also sponsored by Tokyo Tokyo, Gatorade, Philippine Airlines, adidas Taylor Made, KZG by Custom Clubmakers, Pink Patio Boracay, Coppertone Sport and Rogin-E. Killer-Bee, Jam 88.3, Wave 89.1, Magic 89.9, 99.5 RT and 103.5 K-Lite are media partners.

Lina de Guzman, another ex-national player, was unchallenged in ladies Class A with his second straight one-under 71, good for a 16-stroke win over Samantha Cebrero (80-158).

Pitong Quiocho recovered from a three-shot deficit to beat Rodel Mangulabnan by a stroke for the men's Class A plum. Quiocho shot 73-152 while Mangulabnan stumbled with a 77-153.

The other men's division winners were: Emil Alviar who romped to a five-shot win in Class B with an 81-158, Art dela Fuente (86-169) in Class C, and Joven Papio (95-184) in Class D.

In the ladies category, Rita Horan (Class B) and Yoon Mijung (Class C) beat jungolfers Frances Bawal and Andie Unson, respectively, for the crown.

The eliminations move to the Camp John Hay course in Baguio for the sixth leg on Oct. 19-22.

Fujian team tests local lady cagers

A TEAM from Fujian province in China is arriving today via Philippine Airlines to slug it out with four local squads in the 2nd National Women's Invitational Basketball Championship set Oct. 4-9 at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

The Chinese team, represented by Motorstar Motorcycle Women's Selection Team, is headed by Peter Ty. and team leader Lu Lian Jie.

Testing the mettle of the visitors are the RP national women's team of coach Bay Cristobal, Philippine Maritime Institute, champion in the Colleges and Universities Sports Associations (Cusa) and a selection from the National Athletic Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (Naascu) and Bulacan State University of the Philippine Schools, Colleges, Universities Athletic Association (PSCUAA).

The five teams will play a single round robin elimination in this tournament organized by the Basketball Association of the Philippines (BAP) in cooperation with the Philippine Integrated Chinese Athletic Association (Picaa). The team with the best card will be the champion.

Graham Lim, BAP secretary general, said the opening game will be graced by BAP president Quinteliano Literal, BAP executive vice president Christian Tan, Picaa president Alvin Tai, Philippine Sports Commissioner William Ramirez, and former Tarlac representative Peping Cojuangco, president of the Philippine Equestrian Association. The Cojuangco clan, including former President Corazon C. Aquino, traces its roots to Fujian, China.

Also expected to grace the opening ceremonies are Philippine Olympic Committee chair and taekwondo chief Robert Aventajado, Philippine Amateur Athletic Association (Patafa) president Go Teng Kok and judo head director Reynaldo Jaylo.

SPORTSWATCH

Buhain congratulates Archers

PHILIPPINE Sports Commission Chair Eric Buhain yesterday expressed high hopes that the show of support and unity in the UAAP would be replicated by the whole nation as "one big school" rallying behind national athletes competing in the 2005 Southeast Asian Games. Buhain, a La Salle Zobel and De La Salle Philadelphia alumnus, congratulated the De La Salle Green Archers for winning the 2004 UAAP men's seniors basketball crown and also commended runner-up Far Eastern University Tamaraws. Buhain, a back-to-back recipient of the Best Male Athlete award of the 1989 and 1991 Sea Games, also served as head coach of the De La Salle University swimming team.

SLCUAA semis begins today

SEMIFINAL hostilities in the 5th Southern Luzon Colleges and Universities Athletic Association (SLCUAA) volleyball competitions begin today with a heavy 12-game bill at the Brent International School Manila. Elimination round leader San Pedro College of Business Administration rounds out the six-game schedule at Court 1 against University of Perpetual Help Dalta System-Calamba in women's action at 2:15 p.m., followed by the UPHDS-Molino-Brent women's clash at 1 p.m. St. Joseph Academy takes on Brent at 8 a.m. while St. Francis of Assisi College System-Bayanan battles Colegio San Agustin-Binan at 9:15 a.m., both in the 14-Under Division.

First Partners Cup on today

THE FIRST Partners Cup 2004 invitational badminton tournament among business partners of Robinsons Land Corp. will be held today at the Asuncion Badminton Center in San Juan, Metro Manila. At least 250 participants and guests comprising executives, contractors and suppliers of RLC are entered in six categories in the tournament that will be spiced up by exhibition matches of television and movie celebrities and national champions, including one from Indonesia. Paolo Bediones, host of the top-rated reality show Extra Challenge, will play with former beauty queen and film actress Daisy Reyes in one of the special doubles matches.

Derby aficionados gather at Roligon

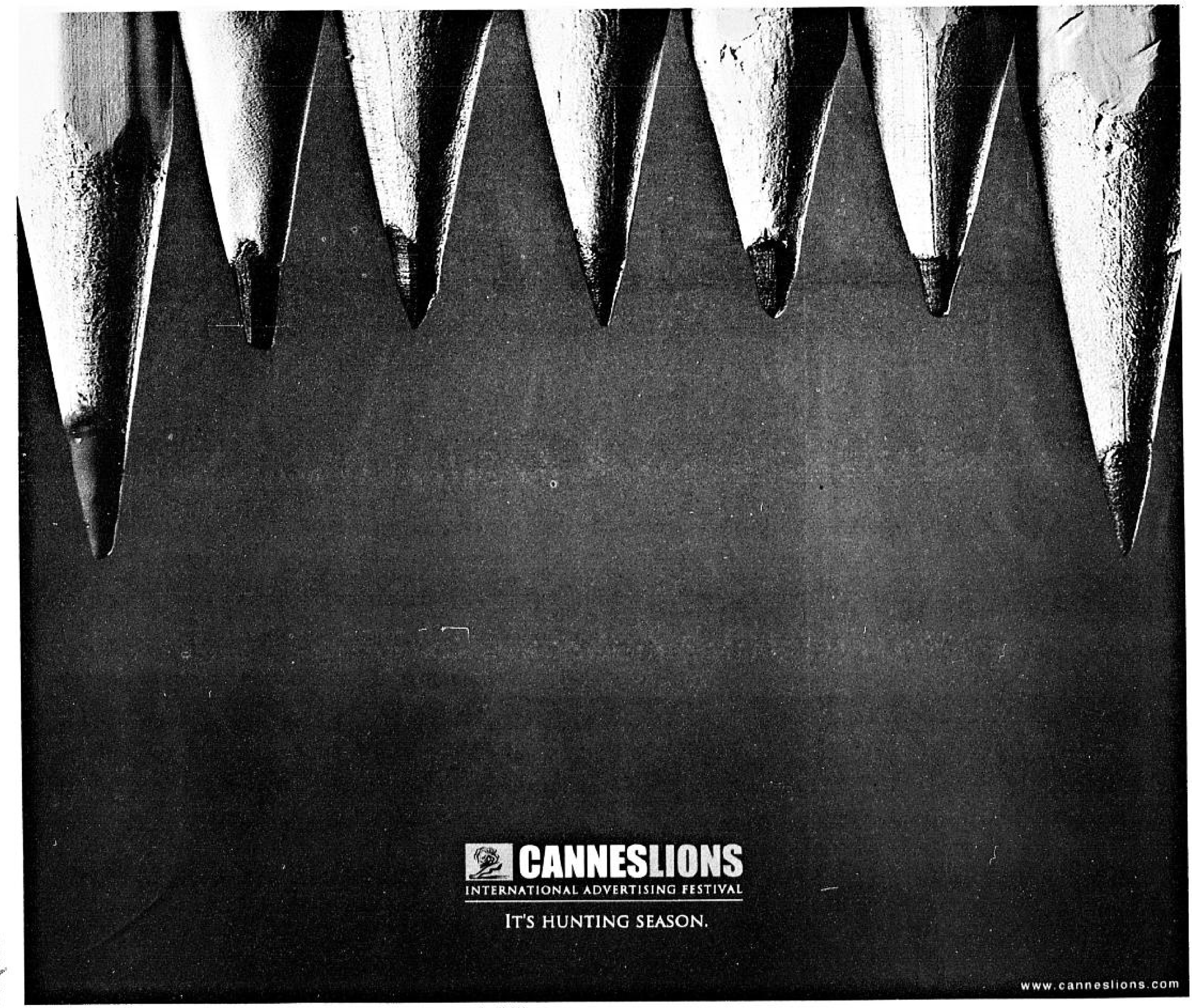
THOUSANDS of derby aficionados from Metro Manila, Quezon, Cavite, Batangas, Laguna, Rizal, Bulacan, Pampanga, Bataan and Pangasinan troop to Roligon Mega Cockpit today as they provide support to their respective heroes as new, upcoming and veteran gamefowl breeders clash for recognition and supremacy. A joint undertaking of Rolly Ligon and Thunderbird Power Feeds for the past nine years, the Stag Festival Derby has provided the right stage for budding rooster-raisers to test and showcase their yearly produce. This 2004 edition stakes P1,000,000 in guaranteed cash prizes for an entry fee of P6,600. Also in support of this derby are Lakpue Drug and Casino Filipino.

Mendoza entry prevails anew

FAST-RISING gamefowl breeder engineer Arthur Mendoza of Golden Warriors Farm in Agoncillo, Batangas continues to dominate the stag derby scene after scoring four wins out of four matches to outclass 61 other entries during last Thursday's 4-stag derby at the Daang-Hari Coliseum in Bgy. Pasong Buwaya, Molino, Cavite. Riding-high from a runner-up finish in the recent 112-entry Ray-Showdown 7-Stag contest at Roligon Mega Cockpit and a conquest of a 4-stag event in Candelaria, Quezon, Mendoza is proving to be an emerging force in local cockfighting. A college buddy of sweater king Sonny Lagon of Blue Blade Farm, Mendoza has been making a name for himself since he started raising fighting cocks two years ago.

ACCI 9-ball tourney slated

THE 1ST Architectural Center Club Inc. 9-ball tournament will be held on Friday, Oct. 8, at the ACCI clubhouse on Palma St. in Makati City. The format for the series, meant to foster goodwill among club members, will be round-robin, race to five racks. Composing the tournament committee are Joel Songsong, chair; Berlin Manaloto, director; Conrado Balderama, technical committee chair; Francisco Flameno Jr., ex officio member. All members and their friends are enjoined to register and join the tournament.



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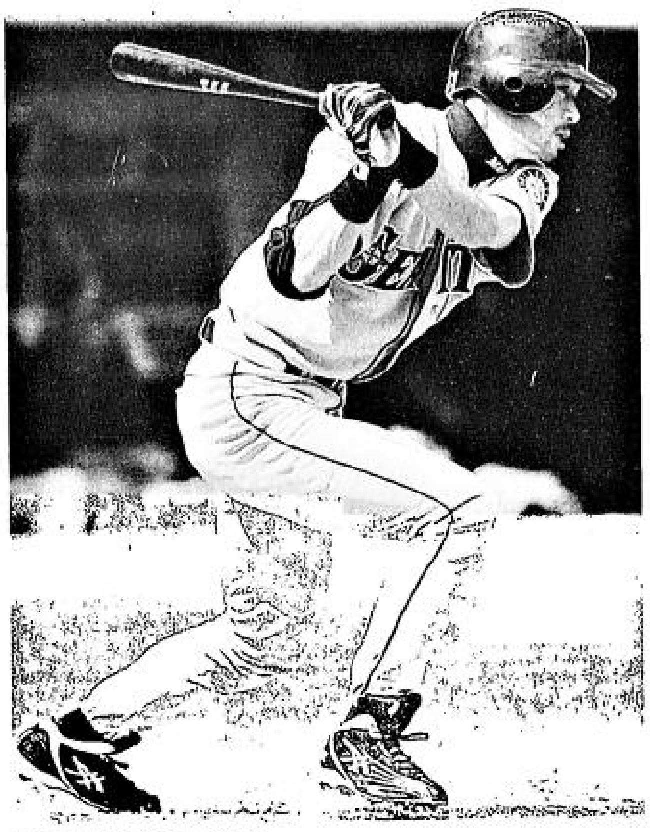


NEARING HISTORY AP

Seattle Mariners' Ichiro Suzuki follows through with his 256th hit of the season Thursday. Suzuki needs one more hit to reach to equal the most hits in a season record of 257 set by George Sisler in 1920.

TROUBLE-FREE WIN

Murakami rules Riviera

FORMER national champion Artemio Murakami coasted to a trouble-free victory in the third Riviera Amateur Golf Championship yesterday, firing a one-under par 70 and beating Jay Bayron by six strokes at Riviera's Langer course in Silang, Cavite.

A birdie on the tricky par-4 18th capped Murakami's impressive performance in the tournament. He shot a 68 in the first round and used this as the springboard to rout the field that included two of the mainstays of the national team competing in next month's World Amateurs in Puerto Rico.

He was never seriously threatened from Day One and, counting his 74 and 71 in the middle rounds, Murakami closed out with a 283.

Bayron, six down at the start of the day, tried to apply the pressure early with a birdie on No. 1 but Murakami simply matched the feat and virtually spent the day fine-tuning his swing and polishing his putting stroke.

Bayron holed out with a 70 and took runner-up honors with a 289.

Erstwhile joint second Marvin Dumandan moved to within four strokes after nine holes with a 34 but three bogeys in the last six holes slowed down his bid.

He settled for a 72 and wound up third with a 291.

Juvic Pagunsan, who, with Michael Bibat and Jun Bernis, will banner the RP team in the Puerto Rico bash next month, limped with a 72 and finished a disappointing fourth at 295.

Worse was Bibat, who wound up seventh in the event sponsored by Pacsports and DHL with a 302 after a 73 behind Ray Sangil (73-300) and Gene Bondoc (73-301).

Generals top UCAA hoops

THE EMILIO Aguinaldo College Generals bagged the 3rd Universities and Colleges Athletics Association (UCAA) men's basketball crown unbeaten following an 85-79 victory over the Philippine School of Business Administration Jaguars in the finals Thursday night at the Pasay Sports Complex.

Ron Jayson Buenafe, voted as the league's Most Valuable Player (MVP), provided the spark for the Generals with a game-high 24 points, including eight in the crucial stretch.

They cut short the best-of-three title series, 2-0, and completed a record 17-0 romp of the two-month long meet backed by Molten and Mikasa balls, New Balance shoes, Arena swimwear, Accel, Villa de Oro Resorts Boracay and Shakey's Pizza.

Filipino AF3 bets struggle

BOGOR, Indonesia—Indonesian Ananda Mikola posted the fastest times in the first two of three official practice races Friday at the Sentul International Circuit and emerged as the driver to beat in the fourth leg of the Pertamina Fastron Asian Formula 3 Grand Prix.

Mikola, the 24-year-old son of the circuit's owner, clocked 1:25.2 in the first practice race and matched that time in his second practice race an hour later, easily outracing Christian Jones, the series leader, and Ireland's John O'Hara.

Jones clocked a second-best time of 1:25.6 in the first practice race and did a third-best 1:26.2 in the second race as against the 1:25.8 and 1:25.6 of O'Hara.

Defending champion Pepon Marave, who has lent the car he drove to victory last year to O'Hara, was fourth fastest in the second practice race, clocking 1:27.2.

Young gun Tyson Sy, competing in the promotions class, outshone the veterans in the field, among them Mark Goddard of Great Britain and fellow Filipino Richard Joson.

Filipino Enzo Pastor continued to struggle while compatriot Dado Peña failed to finish practice for the second straight day.

Trinidad vows to KO Mayorga

NEW YORK—Puerto Rico's Felix Trinidad returns to boxing after a 29-month layoff here Saturday in a 12-round welterweight showdown against Nicaraguan Ricardo Mayorga.

Trinidad, 41-1 with 34 knockouts, is coming out of retirement in his first fight since losing to undisputed middleweight champion Bernard Hopkins here three years ago.

"I'm going to win. I'm well prepared to win by knockout or by decision if that's the way it comes," Trinidad said.

"I'm so calm and confident in my victory. I have my mind set for victory."

Mayorga, 27-4 with one draw and 23 knockouts, has talked tough about making Trinidad's return a brief one. "Trinidad will wish he never came out of retirement after he fights me. I will send him back to Puerto Rico on a stretcher." *AFP*

RP trade team in thick of the fight

LLOYD Reynante kept the RP-Pagcor Casino Filipino Trade Team in the thick of the fight of the Dji Sam Soe Tour of Indonesia cycling classic by finishing third in Stage 4 from Semarang to Yogyakarta Thursday.

Reynante made a breakaway bid at the halfway mark before yielding to Iranian Ghader Mizbani and Taiwanese Lai Kuan Hua, who made it a 1-2 finish for the Giant Asia Racing Team.

Reynante, the 2004 Tour Pilipinas runner-up, covered the 147.7-km uphill-downhill grind in four hours, 54 minutes and 10 seconds to duplicate his third-place finish in the second lap Tuesday.

Despite favoring an injured right leg, Mizbani asserted his billing as one of Asia's best climbers to top the lap in 4:49:51.

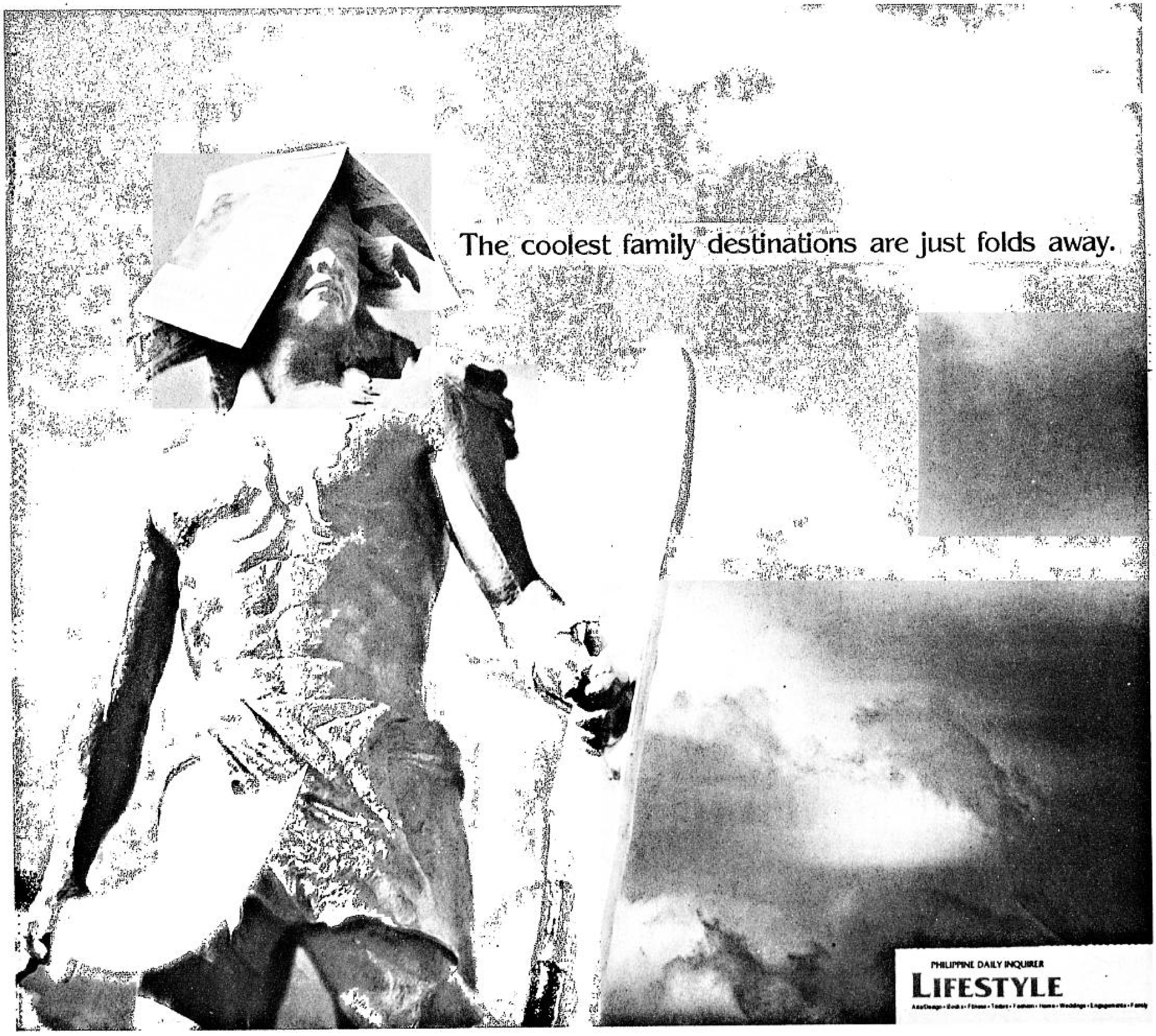
GMA wishes cyclists good luck

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has wished members of the national team good luck in their campaign in the 10th Asian Mountain Bike Championships which will be staged Oct. 7 to 10 in Puerto Princesa City.

In her message to the team members and organizers led by PhilCycling, headed by Bert Lina, and Puerto Princesa City, under Mayor Edward Hagedorn, the President also underscored cycling's role in achieving a Strong Republic.

"Cycling, like most others sports, develops patience, perseverance and mental toughness crucial to the formation of well-rounded individuals who make something of themselves for the benefit of the country," wrote the president.

"Conquering rugged terrain and foul weather shows the triumph of the human spirit against overwhelming odds," she added.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SPORTS

Hagedorn lauds sepak takraw team

MAYOR Edward Hagedorn praised Puerto Princesa City's sepak takraw team for helping the Philippines to a third-place finish overall in the fourth Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East Asean Growth Area Friendship Games in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia. The Puerto Princesa team is composed of athletes Jojie Gernal, Roel Anosa, Janier Caabay and Raffy Dagaraga.

Three shoot for WNCAA semis

THREE squads fight it out today for the last two semifinal slots in the WNCAA basketball tournament at the St. Scholastica's College gym. Rizal Technological U battles semifinalist Lyceum at 12:30 p.m., seeking win No. 8 that would give them the third slot. At 5 p.m., Centro Escolar University (6-2) will have the chance to settle the final with a victory over Miriam College (5-3).

Hurting Tiger trails by 2

TIGER Woods, who injured his back after sleeping awkwardly in his private plane, grimaces as he plays out of the rough. AP

THOMASTOWN, Ireland—Tiger Woods hardly looked like himself until a painful first round at the American Express Championship was over and he signed for a 4-under 68, two shots out of the lead at a tournament he has won the last two years.

On the practice range, he swung like an amateur getting ready for a Wednesday pro-am round on the PGA Tour.

Attribute that to a back injury that made him wince, grit his teeth, buckle his knees and generally look miserable.

British Open champion Todd Hamilton, who took the lead with a 6-under 66 and heard the stories about Woods' injury, chalked it up to something else.

"Even if the guy is healthy or hurt, he's got a big heart," Hamilton said. "The guy never gives up."

Hamilton has a claret jug from winning the British Open. What really helped him Thursday was a hot putter, which can feel like a magic wand on the pure greens of Mount Juliet.

Hamilton made birdie putts of 20 and 15 feet early in his round, then finished it in style. He made four straight birdies, and even his lone bogey on the final hole didn't keep him out of the lead.

"The putter felt good the whole day," he said. "If you can't putt these greens, you can't putt, because the greens are spectacular."

Hamilton wasn't alone.

Adam Scott recovered from a three-putt from 3½ feet—including one of 16 inches—for a double bogey on No. 11 by making birdie on five of his last six holes for a 67.

Also one shot behind was the winning Ryder Cup trio of Sergio Garcia, Luke Donald and Miguel Angel Jimenez, along with Stuart Appleby and Steve Flesch.

Woods' injury is in his upper back, although he traces it to ribs not gliding properly, and he often closed his left arm over his chest after each swing. *AP*

ROGER Federer serves to Robin Soderling in the first set. REUTERS

Federer, Roddick advance

BANGKOK, Thailand—Top-ranked Roger Federer trounced Swiss compatriot Ivo Heuberger, 6-1, 6-3, Thursday and cruised into to the Thailand Open quarterfinals.

Second seeded Andy Roddick also advanced after rallying to move past fellow American Jeff Morrison, 6-2, 6-7 (4), 6-4.

Federer finished the first set in just 20 minutes, but struggled a little in the second and needed four match points to win the match.

"He hung in there, and after 5-1, it was the toughest game in the match," said Federer, who won three of four Grand Slam titles this year.

Heuberger entered the match with a sore tooth, a condition Federer exploited.

"I knew he was not 100 percent and I knew I could take advantage of that," Federer said. "He must be 100 percent to beat me."

After losing the second set, Roddick got a break in the deciding set and went on to lead 5-4. But it wasn't until the seventh match point that he was able to end the tight match with a forehand winner.

"I missed easy shots and missed easy points," Roddick acknowledged to reporters afterward.

He next faces Thomas Johansson of Sweden, who beat Chile's Adrian Garcia, 6-3, 6-3.

Marat Safin booked his quarterfinals berth with a hard fought 6-3, 6-4 win over the Czech Republic's Jiri Vanek.

Fourth-seeded Paradorn Srichaphan, the hometown favorite, was the last player to reach the quarterfinal with a 6-0, 7-6 (4) victory over American Alex Bogomolov Jr. *AP*

Rodman eyes comeback; Fox calls it quits

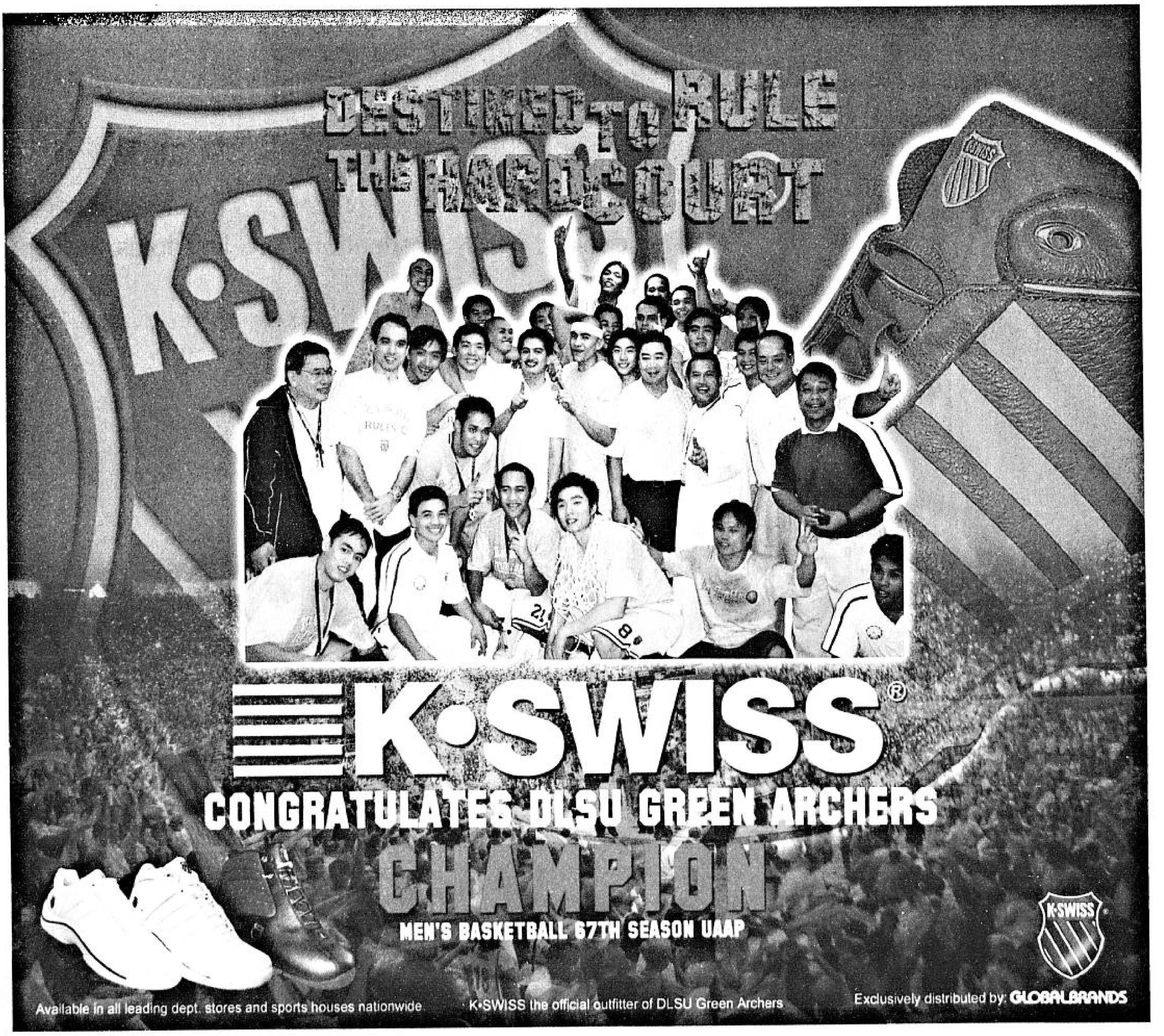
DENVER—Former NBA rebounding champion Dennis Rodman's attempt at a comeback at age 43 took another step when he participated in an informal workout with the Denver Nuggets on Thursday.

"Talk to other players and they'll say that wasn't a 43-year old guy that was running today," Rodman told the Rocky Mountain News. "That wasn't a 43-year-old guy. That was a freak out there."

Meanwhile, in Los Angeles, Rick Fox retired on Thursday and ended a 13-year pro career during which he was part of three NBA championship teams with the Los Angeles Lakers.

Fox, beset by injuries last season, was traded by the Lakers to the Celtics on Aug. 6.

The 35-year-old forward averaged a career-low 4.8 points last season, when the Lakers were beaten by Detroit in the NBA Finals. *AP*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Candles play an important role as one of the symbolic elements in church wedding ceremonies. And what better way to light a couple's path together than with Liwanag wedding candles, from the company that has been providing candlelight to Filipino homes and lives for a long time.

Cayabyab composes music for 'Birhen ng Caysasay'

By Nestor U. Torre

RYAN Cayabyab, the country's top composer of original Filipino musicals, is writing the music for the songs for the new Marian musical "Mapaghimalang Kamay ng Birhen ng Caysasay," which will be staged at the CCP's Little Theater from Dec. 7 to 10, before being taken on a performance tour of Batangas, Laguna and neighboring provinces.

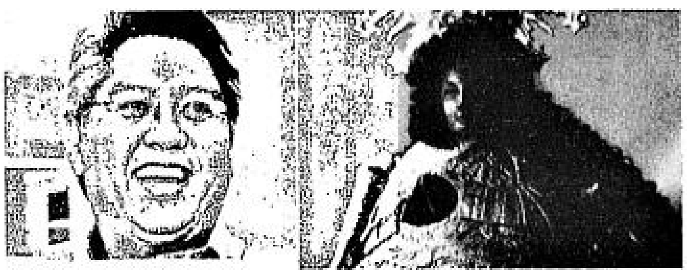
Ryan, who was recently named the Gawad CCP's awardee for music, has agreed to do the songs for the show partly because his late mother came from Batangas. Also, his first Marian musical, "Magnificat," has become a big popular and critical hit, so a similarly powerful, moving and insightful follow-up is clearly in order.

Special presentation

"Mapaghimalang Kamay ng Birhen ng Caysasay" is a special presentation of the Cultural Center of the Philippines, the Taal CHARM Foundation, Inc., Blessed Virgin of Caysasay Foundation, Inc. and the Taal Heritage Foundation, Inc.

The production's executive producer is the acclaimed sculptor, Ramon Orlina. It has been mounted to give thanks and pay tribute to the

CAYABYAB/ A2-2



RYAN writes songs for new Marian musical on Taal's well-loved Our Lady of Caysasay (right).

JESSE BRADFORD MIA KIRSHNER

Spencer (Jesse Bradford) moves to L.A. and takes a job in the mailroom of a large company, where he encounters Melora (Mia Kirshner), whom he has been in love with since elementary school. As aspiring writer, Melora is already involved in a relationship, so Spencer decides to be content to be her friend and hope that she will eventually come around. While waiting, he moves in with two "film makers" who are actually shooting a porn film, giving him a series of strange adventures.

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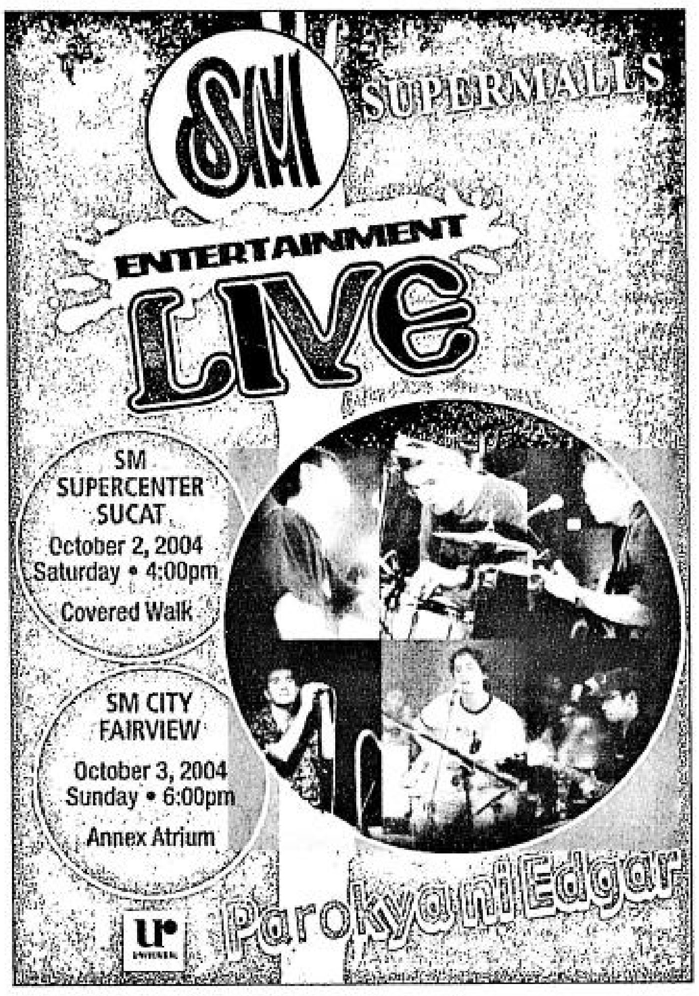
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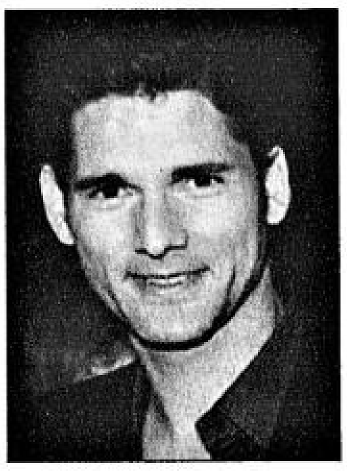
Cinematic gems at Australian festival



BANA. Portrays real-life criminal in "Chopper."

By Noelani Torre

MORE and more people nowadays are beginning to realize that Hollywood isn't the only source of foreign films. Cinema flourishes in other parts of the world, too, and it is largely through film festivals that we have access to non-Hollywood fare we'd have otherwise missed. (Of course, watching at home can't really equal the big screen experience.)

Glimpse of the best

One source of good, even brilliant, films is the Land Down Under, which boasts of a thriving film industry and hordes of luminous talents. The second Australian Film Festival had 10 films in its line-up:

"Chopper" (written and directed by Andrew Dominik) tells the tale of real-life criminal Mark "Chopper" Read, upon whose bestselling book, "From the Inside," the movie was based. Played with riveting intensity by Australia's Hollywood star, Eric Bana, "Chopper" is a gripping 90-minute look at the workings of a sociopath's mind.

This isn't a movie that will appeal to everybody, but it's certainly one that can't be ignored. Not surprisingly, it also brought Bana, who was then a stand-up comedian (who'd have thought?), international attention, which in turn paved the way for his successful Hollywood breakthrough.

If "Chopper" reinforces the commonly held view that Australians are strange ducks, "Walking on Water" shows us how refreshingly normal they can be. In a cinematic tradition populated by odd-balls and eccentrics, the ordinary, grief-stricken characters of this lovely film stand out in their "everyman-ness."

Humorous

With its unsentimental and, at times, darkly humorous take on death, mourning, and the evolution of relationships, "Walking on Water" is our hands-down favorite. Directed by Tony Ayres, with an outstanding screenplay by Roger Monk, the film is blessed with an excellent cast in Vince Colosimo, Maria Theodorakis, Judi Farr and Nathaniel Dean.

In direct contrast to the melancholic laughs of "Walking on Water" is the sunny, youthful hilarity of "Garage Days." Written and directed by "The Crow" director Alex Proyas, the film tells the story of a not so talented garage band wanting to make it big.

Though some of its gags fall flat on its face, the movie makes up for it in visual style (think Proyas' earlier flicks lightened up by sunlight and a strong dose of pop) and energy.

Another lighthearted comedy is "Better Than Sex," directed by Jonathan Teplitzky, and starring Susie Porter and David Wenham.

Candid

Though it suffers from too heavy directorial handling, its candid way of looking at sex and the sheer charm of Porter and Wenham manage to drag the movie back to its feet.

Judging from the quality of films in this and last year's festivals, we have no doubt that Australia still has many more cinematic gems to offer, and we're definitely looking forward to next year's edition. That the festival has also been free thus far is icing on the cake.

Cayabyab composes music for 'Birhen ng Caysasay'

From page A2-1

miraculous image of Our Lady of Caysasay, which for 400 years now has been the beloved spiritual helpmeet of the residents of Taal, Batangas and its environs.

Awareness

The show's producers trust that the new musical will help spread awareness of and devotion to Our Lady, who has been credited with interceding with her son, Jesus Christ, for many miraculous cures that have been documented through the years.

One of the most celebrated miracles, which is highlighted in the musical production, is the story of Haybing, a Chinese stonemason, who was brought back from the dead after being decapitated during the Sangley uprising in the 16th century.

The staging of "Birhen ng Caysasay" also marks the 50th anniversary of the Virgin's canonical coronation by Fernando Cardinal Quiroga y Palacios, who was sent to Taal by Pope Pius XII, and the 150th year of the promulgation of the Dogma on the Immaculate Conception.

The musical's story begins in modern times, with a family coming home to pray for a healing. The female protagonist is a teenager, to make it easier for young audiences to relate to the tradition surrounding the Virgin.

The teenager starts out unable to relate to the Caysasay devotion, but she's brought back to witness the dramatic events 400 years ago, and thus gains a deep understanding of and appreciation for the honored tradition.

Devotees

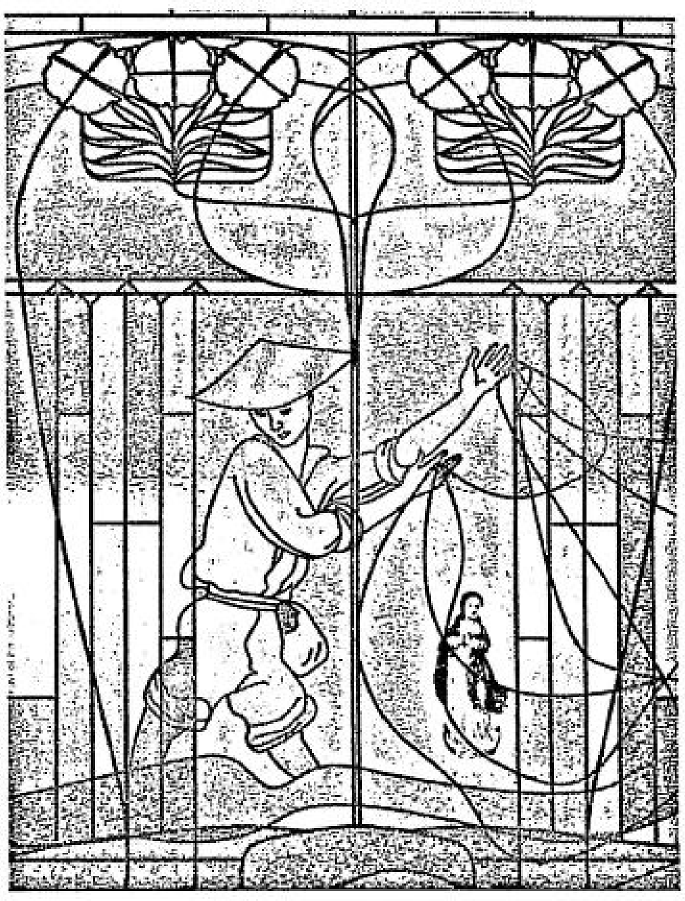
Devotees and organizations who want to sponsor a performance of the musical at the CCP are asked to call 781-5918, 780-9210, 0919 206-5424 or email orlina@info.com.ph.

The musical recalls how, four centuries ago, the beloved image was netted by a fisherman, Juan Maningkad, in Taal's Pansipit River.

Discovery

The discovery of the miraculous image has resulted in a fervent devotion that has built a national and now even international community of Marian devotees. To underscore this, invitations have been extended for the musical to be performed abroad.

For his part, Ryan is himself a devotee. Aside from "Magnificat," he has composed music for other religious presentations. His landmark musicals include "Katy!," "Larawan, The Musical," and shows based on Rizal's novels, the "Noli" and "Fili."



ARTIST'S stylized rendition shows how the Virgin's image was found in a fisherman's net in 1603.

Looking good

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

A POPULAR slogan says, "Look good, feel good." But, in our attempt to look nice, we use cosmetic products that may actually cause damage to our health and well-being.

This is the message of Christine Farlow's book, "Dying to Look Good." Some people suffer in their quest for physical perfection.

Essential

We know that we should be careful about what we eat, drink or inhale. But, very few of us realize that what we put on our skin may affect the protection and maintenance of our health. The skin's permeability allows certain chemicals to be absorbed and directed to the bloodstream.

Farlow writes: "Many of the ingredients we use in cosmetics are toxic, even if they don't cause an immediate reaction. Sometimes, they cause cancer. From 1978 to 1980, the FDA analyzed 300 cosmetic samples for carcinogenic contamination. Forty percent of the samples analyzed contained carcinogens! Farlow cites that the use of hair dye could increase the risk of multiple myeloma, Hodgkin's disease, etc.

Other substances that may

LOOKING/ A2-3

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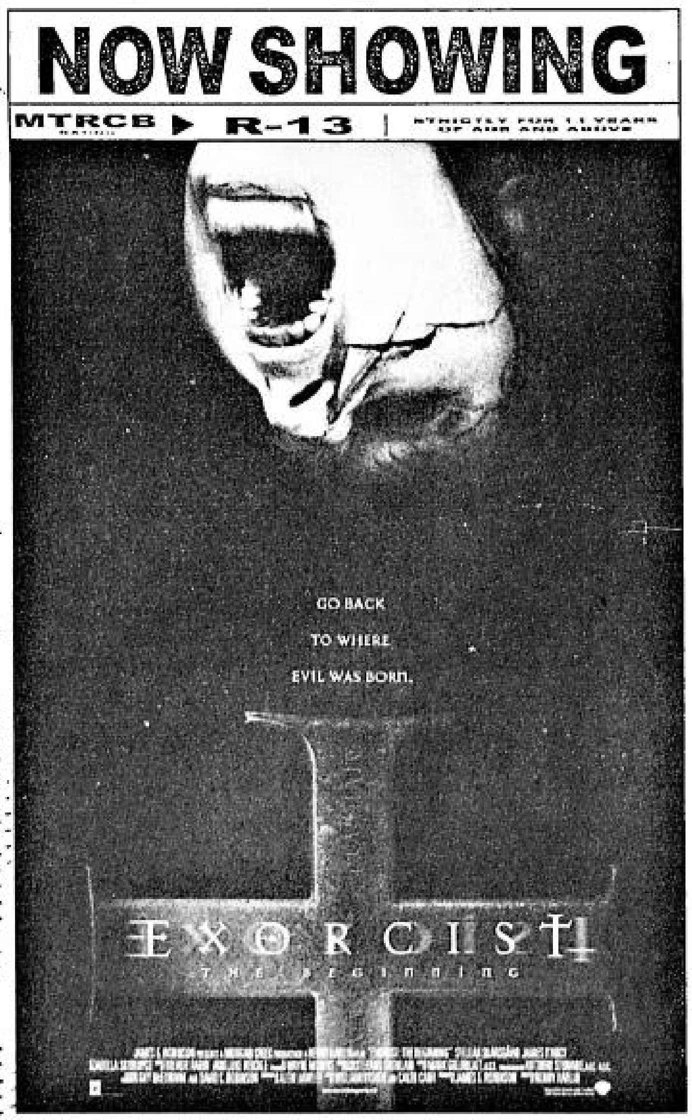

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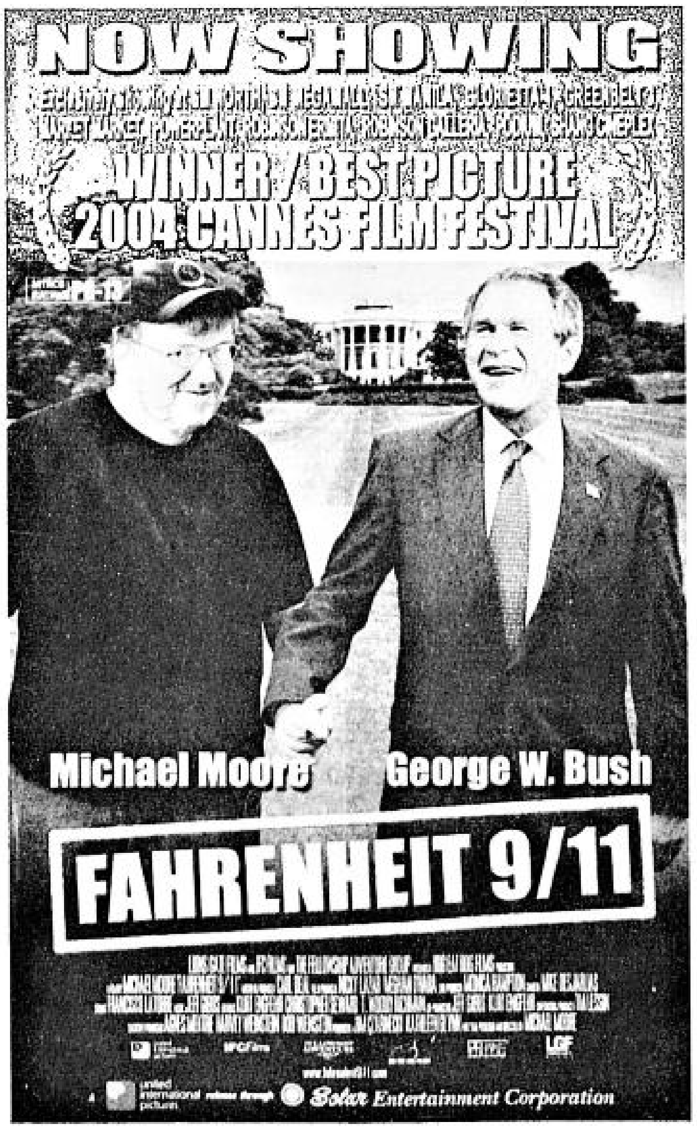

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RESIDENT EVIL 2 R13 12:35,2:55,5.15,7:35,10:10	FENG SHUI PG13 12:35,2.55,5.15,7:35,9:55	THE BOURNE SUPREMACY PG13 12:40,3:05,5 30,7:55,10:20

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③ SECRET WINDOW FS : 11:55 AM, 2:10 PM, 4:25 PM, 6:40 PM LMF : 9:00 PM (R-13)
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NVC's 'Cabaret' opens Nov. 5

THE NEW Voice Company celebrates its 10th anniversary with the international hit musical, "Cabaret," with songs by John Kander and Fred Ebb, and book by Joe Masteroff. The Oscar-winning musical also won Tony awards for best revival, best score, best direction and best actress in 1999.

Live theater

The New Voice Company promises a show that will redefine the potential of live theater to mesmerize and influence an audience. Sam Mendes' revival is different because the characters are allowed to explore their sexuality. The musical juxtaposes two love stories—the landlady and her Jewish suitor, and Cliff and Sally—whose descent is chronicled by the Emcee.

The Manila production boasts of a stellar cast. Monique Wilson stars as Sally Bowles. Joining Monique is an incredible cast of 21, which includes Michael Williams (as Clifford Bradshaw), Jamie Wilson (as the Emcee), Joy Virata (as Fraulein Schneider), Leo Rialp and Bonggoy Manahan (alternating as Herr Schultz), Lynn Sherman (as Fraulein Kost), John Mulhall (as Ernst Ludwig), with Roselyn Perez, Tami Monsod, Jenny Jamora, Pheona Baranda, Amparo Sietereales, Lily Chu, April Celmar, Ronalou San Pedro and Nikki Ventosa as the Kit Kat girls, and Joel Trinidad, Jake Macapagal, Amiel Mendoza and Elnard Arellano as the Kit Kat boys. The show features the popular Ugoy Ugoy band as the Kit Kat band.

MONIQUE Wilson (center) and the Kit Kat girls: (from left) Pheona Baranda, Lily Chu, Amparo Sietereales, Jenny Jamora and Lynn Sherman.

Prism of history

"Cabaret" is an "astonishing artistic expression of life at the brink of the millennium, as seen through the prism of history." It explores Berlin's seedy underworld. Critics have hailed this modern revival as "stunning" and "spellbinding."

The NVC production is based on the revised Broadway production of Sam Mendes, and is strictly for adults only. Executive producer is Rossana Abueva, with direction by Monique Wilson and Rito Asilo, choreography by Dexter Santos, light design by Martin Esteva, set design by Denis Lagdameo, vocal supervision by John Mulhall and musical direction by Bond Samson.

"Cabaret" goes onstage at the Music Museum from Nov. 5 to Dec. 4 (with Friday and Saturday evening performances at 8 p.m. for the first three weekends, and Thursday, Friday and Saturday evening shows at 8 p.m. for the final two weeks).

Call New Voice at 896-6695, 896-5497, or Ticketworld at 891-9999.

Kaleidoscope of events for German month

DEUTSCHLAND . . . it's definitely more than you think!

In celebration of over 170 years of German-Philippines relations, October has been declared German Month, featuring "Germany—It's more than you think!"

Concerts, food festivals, car shows, product exhibits, and an awesome fashion show are some of the out-of-the-box events to watch out for this month:

Music

Oktoberfest. The Munich-based Bavarian Sound Express will play an extensive repertoire of "oooompapa" music during the German Month. Oct. 3, 1 to 3 p.m., Glorietta 4 Park.

Ensemble Amarcord. With angelic voices and The Backstreet Boys' appeal, former members of the famous St. Leipzig St. Thomas Choir will perform pieces from the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. Oct. 10, 7:30 to 9 p.m., RCBC Plaza.

Classical Concert. SinagTala presents Berlin-based Filipino violinist Justin Texon and German-trained pianist Peter Porticos in a fund-raising concert for the Philippine Research for Developmental Instrumental Soloists. Oct. 12, 8 p.m., St. Cecilia's Hall, St. Scholastica's College, Manila.

Lounge @fter sunset. Experience a world of cut-up sounds, innovative broken beats and funky vocals in Clubnights, featuring German DJ Ben Mono. Oct. 15 to 17.

German classical chamber music, featuring the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra Woodwind Quintet. Oct. 24, 4 to 6 p.m., Rockwell North Court

Gala Concert "Eine Nacht Musik," featuring the Philharmonic Orchestra. Nov. 22, 8 p.m., Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Cuisine

German Cuisine at New World

KALEIDOSCOPE/ A2-6

Ariel Rivera returns to acting

RIVERA. Hands-on dad.

By Remy Umerez

WHEN the *teleserye*, "Forever in My Heart," was offered to Ariel Rivera, the singer wanted to make sure that the storyline was good, and that shooting wouldn't take him away from wife Gellie and their kids for long periods of time.

Private life

"There had been good offers, but there are things in show business that I am not comfortable with. I don't want my private life dragged into the scene. I don't regret losing those intrusive movie offers," he shares.

Ariel went into the pizza business in San Fernando, Pampanga, where the market is not as competitive. In Manila, he manages a motor shop.

Formative years

The Riveras personally raise their children. They don't approve of *yayas* because they don't want their children to become closer to nannies. "Gelli and I want to guide them in their formative years," Ariel stresses.

He reveals that "Forever in My Heart" is very light and devoid of hysterics. "*Nagustuhan ko kasi* it's quiet,*walang sampalan.*"

In "Forever In My Heart," the story revolves around Raphael Cruzaldo (Richard Gomez), a man with a dark past. Regine Velasquez is a wedding planner, a hopeless romantic who believes in signs and soulmates. Ariel plays Michael Bernabe, who questions his love for the woman he's about to marry when he meets Regine's character.

Big difference

How different is acting on TV and in the movies? "There's a big difference. On TV, you have to finish many sequences a day. There's nothing you can do *kung nakakulangan ka sa* performance *mo*. Everybody's in a hurry. But, I have learned how to adjust to it," he says.

Artists help protect Arroceros Forest Park's trees

MONTAGE

ACCLAIMED visual artist Araceli ("Cheloy") Limcaco Dans is calling on film producers to "help save trees by making movies that will help people realize the crucial need to supply oxygen for future generations.

"Our mountains are bald. We no longer have trees to offset floods and pollution."

Cheloy has been prompted to make this call because she's currently involved in saving the trees at the Arroceros Forest Park beside the Metropolitan Theater. To dramatize the need to make the metropolis green again, Cheloy and other visual artists have been conducting painting sessions at the beleaguered park.

She shares: "I painted this beautiful tree (see photo) at the park. Note that the younger trees stand one meter apart, rooted among 3,500 other trees.

"These trees still stand in graceful elegance and dignity, with their verdant loveliness continuously supplying oxygen to thousands of Manileños for miles around.

"To quote Joyce Kilmer: 'Only God can make a tree!' Does man have the right to chop down trees to make way for concrete structures? Who will benefit from reported plans to chop down even a few trees at the park—contractors, teachers, government officials? Is ownership of the land an excuse to chop down even one tree?

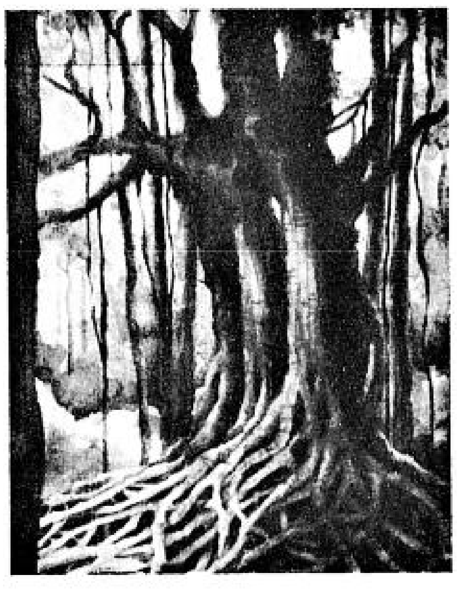
"Most important of all, is depriving future generations of oxygen in exchange for concrete structures not a moral question?"

Cheloy concludes by urging other artists to do their share to keep the Arroceros Forest Park green. She informs us that, every Sunday at 9 a.m., artists will paint different activities at the park. The paintings resulting from this weekly activity will be exhibited early next year to raise funds for the movement.

What about presenting small plays, poetry readings, art happenings, and video and film shoots at the park? Any effort to protect the park will be deeply appreciated.

National Catholic Family Bible Quiz

The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines' Permanent Committee for International Eucharistic Congresses, Episcopal Commission on Biblical Apostolate, and Episcopal Commission on Family and Life, in cooperation with Columbia International Food Products Inc., are launching the National Catholic Family Bible Quiz.



CHELOY Dans painted this venerable, old tree at the park.

The event is being held in celebration of the International Year of the Eucharist and the Marian Year. It seeks to strengthen family ties, increase knowledge of and love for the Bible, bring the Church closer to families, deepen Gospel values in the family, and foster love for the Eucharist and the Blessed Mother.

Participation is open to church-wed Catholic couples with two or three children who are ready to study the bible with a catechist or Bible animator.

There will be a Diocesan Competition, followed by a regional tilt, then the National Finals. Diocesan winners will compete in the Regionals on Nov. 26 in Cebu, Dec. 3 in Davao, Dec. 10 in Pampanga, and Dec. 14 in Makati.

The National Finals will be held on Jan. 20, 2005 at the Makati Peninsula, Makati City. Winners get P50,000 (first prize), P30,000 (second), P20,000 (third) and P10,000 (consolation prize), and their catechists will get P25,000, P15,000, P10,000 and P5,000, respectively.

'Napoleon' on Hallmark Channel

For its opening salvo this month on "Movie Premieres" at 9 p.m., the Hallmark Channel screens the four-part "Napoleon." Part 1 premieres on Oct. 7, Part 2 on Oct. 14, Part 3 on Oct. 21 and Part 4 on Oct. 28.

With its top-caliber, award-winning international cast, "Napoleon" is a landmark miniseries that chronicles the tumultuous life of Napoleon Bonaparte.

ARTISTS/ A2-4

Looking good

From page A2-2

cause damage to your body:

1. Acetone—eye, nose, throat and skin irritant; may cause light headedness, nausea, coma; neurotoxin. Extremely toxic.

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3. Benzene—skin and mucous membrane irritant; absorbed through skin; poisonous if ingested; causes aplastic anemia or leukemia; carcinogen.

4. Glutamic acid—skin, eye, respiratory and digestive irritant; mutagen, may cause birth defects.

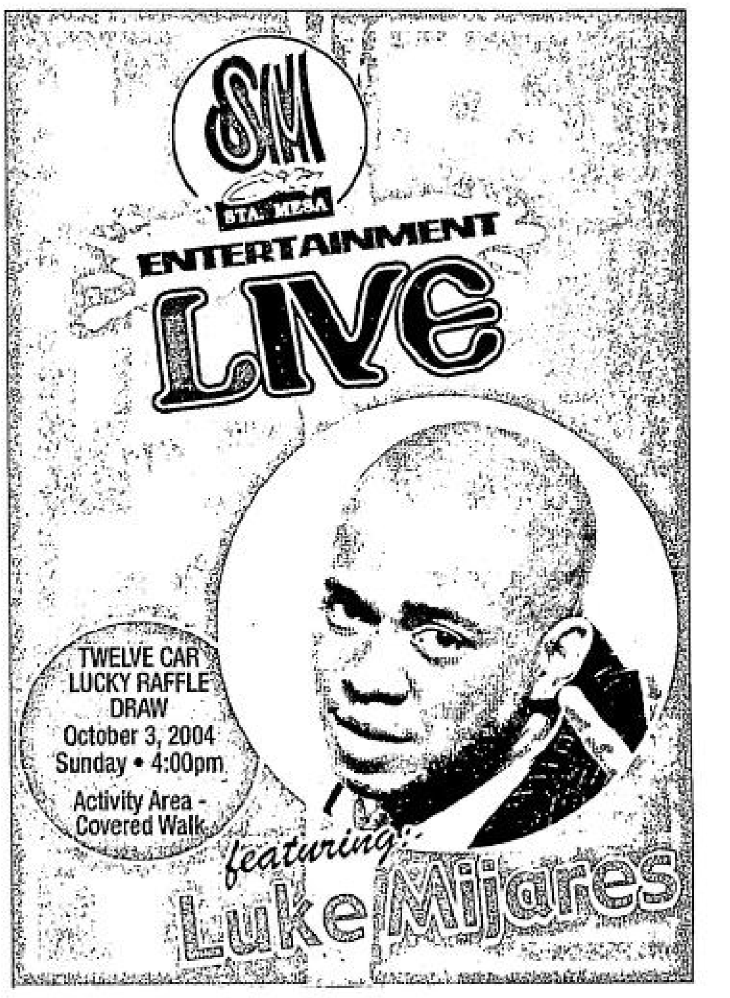
And what about that beautiful line of colors in dyes? Farlow explains, "D&C colors are considered safe by the FDA for drugs and cosmetics, but *not* for food. Most colors are derived from coal tar, and the FDA must certify that they don't contain more than 20 ppm of lead and arsenic.

Colors

Most coal tar colors are potential carcinogens." (Further information may be obtained from Kiss for Health Publishing at their email address kiss4health@netscape.net.)

It is not a crime to look good. We simply have to be careful that we don't die for it.

Email lotuspond108@inquirer.com.ph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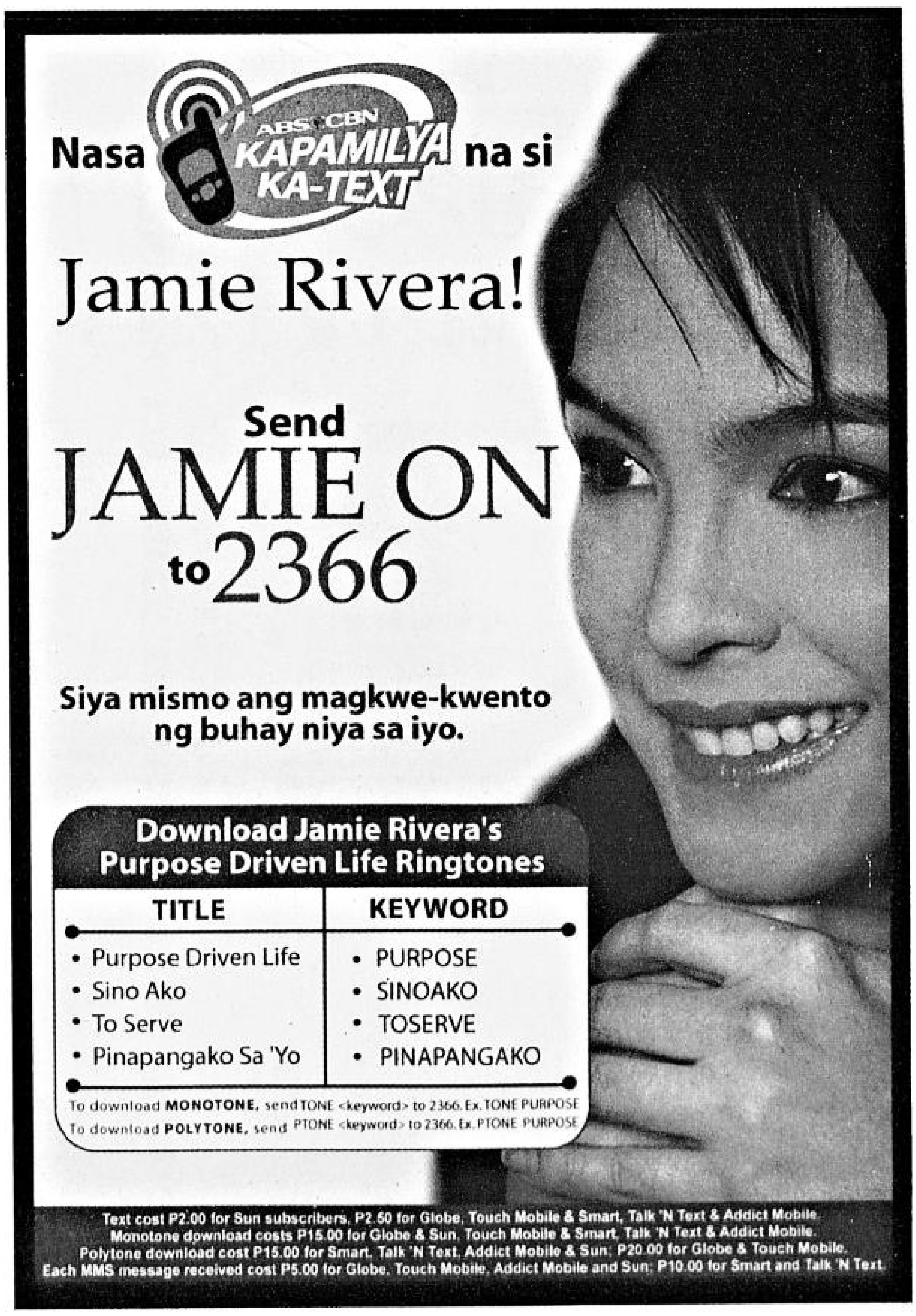
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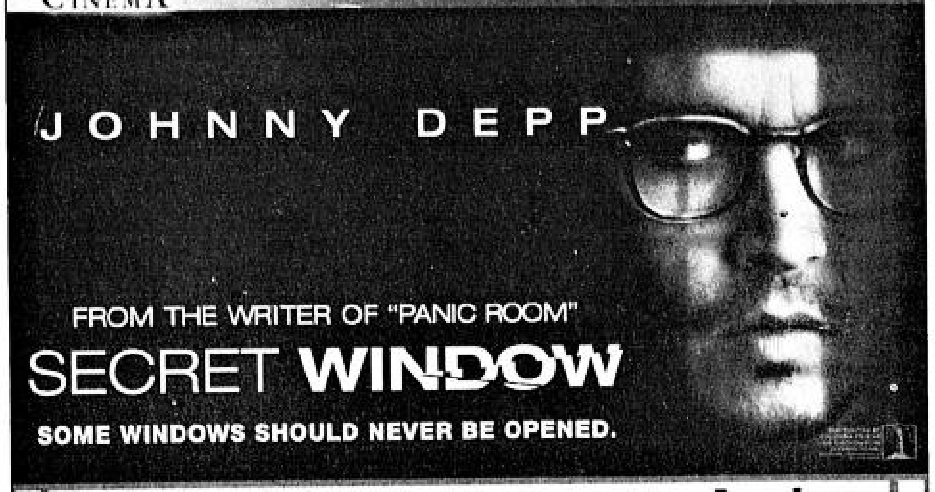
JOHNNY DEPP
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SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 2
SM City Southmall Cinema 9
SM City Bacoor Cinema 4
SM City Fairview Cinema 5
SM City Cebu Cinema 4
SM City Lucena Cinema 1
SM City Dasmariñas Cinema 4
SM City Iloilo Cinema 3
SM City Baguio Cinema 3
SM City Marilao Cinema 4

FAHRENHEIT 9/11 MTRCB Rating: PG13
SM City Manila Cinema 11
SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 8
SM City North Edsa Cinema 5
SM Megamall Cinema 7

MTRCB Rating: PG13 FENG SHUI
SM City Davao Cinema 3
SM Supercenter Sucat Cinema 4
SM City Cebu Cinema 7
SM City Lucena Cinema 4
SM City Dasmariñas Cinema 1
SM City Marilao Cinema 3
SM City Fairview Cinema 6
SM City Pampanga Cinema 6
SM Tutuban Cinema 3
SM Iloilo Cinema 6
SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 1
SM City Southmall Cinema 7
SM Bacoor Cinema 6
SM Baguio Cinema 2
SM City Manila Cinema 9
SM City North Edsa Cinema 3
SM Megamall Cinema 4
SM Bicutan Cinema 2

RAISING HELEN MTRCB Rating: GP
SM City Manila Cinema 2
SM North Edsa Cinema 2
SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 7
SM Southmall Cinema 4
SM City Fairview Cinema 8
SM Supercenter Sucat Cinema 1
SM Megamall Cinema 9
SM Bacoor Cinema 2

MTRCB Rating: R13 RESIDENT EVIL
SM City Supercenter Sucat Cinema 3
SM City Cebu Cinema 8
SM City Bicutan Cinema 1
SM City Fairview Cinema 4 & 7
SM City Tutuban Cinema 1
SM City Davao Cinema 1
SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 3
SM City Southmall Cinema 3
SM Bacoor Cinema 5
SM City Manila Cinema 3 & 4
SM City North Edsa Cinema 8
SM Megamall Cinema 10

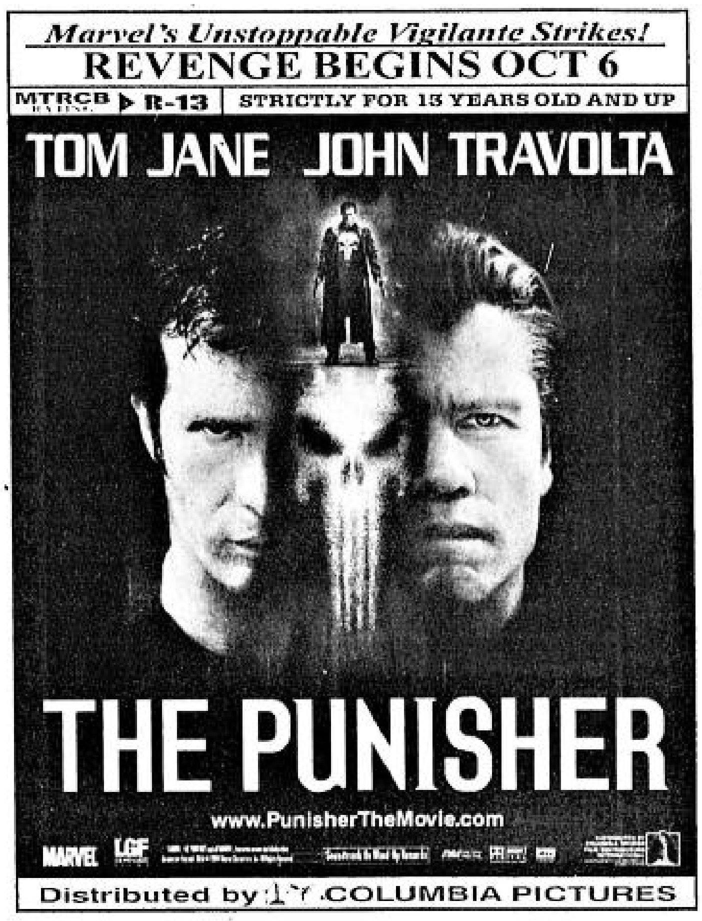
SECRET WINDOW MTRCB Rating: R13
SM City Manila Cinema 6
SM City North Edsa Cinema 6
SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 9
SM City Southmall Cinema 1
SM City Tutuban Cinema 2
SM Sucat Cinema 2
SM Megamall Cinema 5
SM City Fairview Cinema 4

MTRCB Rating: GP THE TERMINAL
SM City Fairview Cinema 12
SM City Davao Cinema 5
SM City Lucena Cinema 3
SM City Marilao Cinema 7
SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 4
SM City Southmall Cinema 5
SM Bacoor Cinema 8
SM City Manila Cinema 10
SM City North Edsa Cinema 4
SM Megamall Cinema 8

MTRCB Rating: PG 13 13 GOING ON 30
SM City Baguio Cinema 1
SM City Lucena Cinema 2
SM City Davao Cinema 4
SM Cebu Cinema 3
SM City Southmall Cinema 2
SM City Pampanga Cinema 4
SM City Manila Cinema 5
SM Megamall Cinema 12
SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 8

Movies are subject to change without prior notice • For complete movie schedule, visit www.smcinema.com

RESERVE-A-SEAT
Call 636-6800
for SM Megamall Cinema 1
SM CINEMA


Marvel's Unstoppable Vigilante Strikes!
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THE PUNISHER
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MARVEL
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MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
Telephone: 633.2227 / 633.7851 loc. 171
PREMIERE THEATRE
(DOLBY) THE BOURNE SUPREMACY PG-13
1 (DOLBY) RAISING HELEN GP
2 (DOLBY) FAHRENHEIT 9/11 PG-13
3 (DOLBY) SECRET WINDOW R-13
4 (DOLBY) RESIDENT EVIL 2 R-13

SUPER CINERAMA isetann CINERAMA COMPLEX RECTO tel 733.4238
1. (DOLBY) RESIDENT EVIL
2. THE BOURNE SUPREMACY
3. FENG SHUI
4. SECRET WINDOW
5. CRISANTA… IBA KA

Gotesco Grand Central (Caloocan) tel 364.3781
1 RESERVE
2 ANACONDAS
3 TAKAW TINGIN
4 (SDDS) SECRETARY
5 FENG SHUI
6 (DOLBY) BANGKOK HAUNTED
7 (DTS) CRISANTA… IBA KA
8 RESERVE
9 RESERVE

Managana CINEMA (Pasay) tel 833.3290, 833.3274
1 FENG SHUI
2 RESIDENT EVIL
3 CRISANTA… IBA KA

starmall Movies www.clickthecity.com.ph (Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE
3 CRISANTA… IBA KA
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) RESIDENT EVIL
5 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY

METROPOLIS star www.clickthecity.com.ph (Alabang) tel 850.4285
1 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY
2 CRISANTA… IBA KA
3 SECRET WINDOW
4 FENG SHUI
5 (DOLBY) RESIDENT EVIL
6 RAISING HELEN

starmall Movies www.clickthecity.com.ph (Las Pinas) tel (047) 237.7007
1 (DOLBY) DEAD PEOPLE
2 NENA

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA (Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (SDDS) FENG SHUI
2 (SDDS) RESIDENT EVIL
3 (DTS) EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
4 GOLD (DTS) THE BOURNE SUPREMACY
5 GOLD (DOLBY) RESIDENT EVIL
6 GOLD (SDDS) RAISING HELEN
7 GOLD (DOLBY) SECRET WINDOW
8 (JRMS) DODGEBALL
9 (JRMS) THE TERMINAL
10 (JRMS) 13 GOING ON 30

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT Araneta Center
ALIMALL CINEPLEX
tel 911-3101 loc. 8242, 8281, 8397
3 (Dolby) RESIDENT EVIL
4 (SDDS) FENG SHUI
5 (DTS) THE BOURNE SUPREMACY
6 (Dolby) KRISANTA IBA KA
7 (Dolby) SECRET WINDOW

MARKET! MARKET! Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 RAISING HELEN
2 WEREWOLF (GINGER SNAP-2)
3 ANG GUSTO KO SA LALAKE
4

Jade Cinema (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) DEAD PEOPLE
2 FENG SHUI
3 (DTS EX) DODGEBALL
4 13 GOING ON 30

Cine Nepo (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 BOURNE SUPREMACY
2 FENG SHUI
3 (DOLBY) 13 GOING ON 30
4 (DTS) DODGEBALL

Cine Nepo (Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489
1 THE TERMINAL
2 GODSEND
3 (DOLBY) ANACONDAS
4 (DTS) DODGEBALL

Centre Plaza Cinema (Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 FENG SHUI
2 THE NOTEBOOK

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) THE BOURNE SUPREMACY
2 (DOLBY) RESIDENT EVIL 2
3 (DOLBY) SECRET WINDOW
4 (DOLBY) RAISING HELEN

CINEMA 2000 Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Target Mall (Sta. Rosa, Laguna) tel (049) 837.0926
1 BIKTIMA
2 EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
3 (DTS) FENG SHUI

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 BANGKOK HAUNTED
2 (DTS) FENG SHUI
3 (DOLBY) THE BOURNE SUPREMACY
4 EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall (Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 FENG SHUI
2 (DOLBY) THE BOURNE SUPREMACY
3 (DTS) EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
4 MIND HUNTERS

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix (Urdaneta) tel (075) 568.6771
1 FENG SHUI
2 THE TERMINAL
3 (DOLBY) ANACONDAS

Cinema 2000 Metrotown (Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 FENG SHUI
2 13 GOING ON 30
3 (DOLBY) TOOLBOX MURDER
4 (DTS) DODGEBALL

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Plaridel) tel (044) 7953320
1 THE TERMINAL
2 FENG SHUI
3 (DOLBY) EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING

Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) BANGKOK HAUNTED
2 CRISANTA… IBA KA
3 BIKTIMA
4 (DTS) ACACIA

Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) SECRETARY
2 TAKAW TINGIN
3 (DTS) EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
4 BOURNE SUPREMACY
5 FENG SHUI

Mega Center Mall (Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283
1 TOOLBOX MURDER
2 13 GOING ON 30
3 (DTS) EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
4 (DOLBY) FENG SHUI

Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 FENG SHUI
2 MIND HUNTERS
3 EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
4 BANGKOK HAUNTED

Berma Cinema (Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 CRISANTA… IBA KA
2 WEREWOLF / GINGER SNAP

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

CLAVIER. Plays Napoleon Bonaparte.

Artists

. . . From page A2-3

Christian Clavier plays the title role, and Isabella Rossellini is Napoleon's great love, Josephine de Beauharnais.

Other film treats on "Movie Premieres" this month: "Burn" (Oct. 8), on corporate corruption and environmental terrorism, stars Jonathan and Alan Scarfe.

"Cactus Kids" (Oct. 15), about a dad and his son embarking on the greatest adventure of their lives.

GK anniversary concert

Gawad Kalinga, the community development program spearheaded by Couples for Christ, is marking its first anniversary with a concert tonight that topbills Martin Nievera, Gary Valenciano, Kuh Ledesma, the Apo, Carla Martinez, Isay Alvarez and Robert Seña. The concert will be held at Fort Bonifacio Global City.

'Mom in the City'

Channel 5 is airing a new lifestyle show, "Mom in the City," at 10:30 a.m. on Oct. 2. The magazine program is hosted by the effervescent Marlyn Feliciano Lopez. Do give the new show a boost by watching its first telecast today.

'House of Flying Daggers'

Sneak previews of Zhang Yimou's highly-praised new film, "House of Flying Daggers," will be held on Oct. 4 and 5 in selected theaters. It features Asian superstars Zhang Ziyi, Takeshi Kaneshiro and Andy Lau. The martial arts epic starts its regular run on Oct. 14.

Our Lady of Manaoag

The ongoing Fiesta Novena to Our Lady of the Rosary of Manaoag will culminate in a Holy Mass to be televised on RPN-9 at 6 a.m. on Oct. 3.

Dominican priests from Manaoag, invited priests from Dominican convents and the diocesan clergy are the daily Mass celebrants and preachers. On Our Lady's feast day, a mammoth procession will be held after the 4 p.m. Mass.

The live telecast on RPN-9 will be replayed a week later on The Filipino Channel via ANC.

'Let's Just Play'

Nickelodeon Asia invites you and your family to its "Let's Just Play" event from 2 to 8 p.m. today at the Adidas Sports Kamp at Bonifacio Global City. Hosted by Noel de la Rosa and Issa Litton, the event encourages kids to engage in a healthy, active lifestyle with a wide range of fun activities and games.

'Worldwide Night of Sleep'

In a first-of-its-kind initiative, on the night of Oct. 1-2, The Cartoon Network will replace its regular programming with an innovative sleep-inducing program: Between midnight and 6 a.m. of Oct. 2, the network's very own Sheep (star of the series "Sheep in the Big City") will jump repeatedly across the screen to lull restless viewers into

ARTISTS/ A2-5

Artists . . .

• From page A2-4

deep slumber. This is the network's unique way of encouraging kids to adopt a healthy sleeping pattern, and thereby achieve a balanced life.

'Don Quixote'

Miguel de Cervantes' classic, "Don Quixote," will be staged as a puppet show on Oct. 2 as part of Fiesta: Spanish Festival for Culture and the Arts, organized by Instituto Cervantes and celebrated yearly every October.

The production is mounted by the famous Spanish puppet troupe Bambalina, a major groundbreaking force in this fascinating theater genre. Call 526-1482 to 85.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY - LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	KRISANTA IBA KA
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	TAKAW TINGIN
B	CLOSED
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA 1,2,3 & 4	RAISING HELEN FAHRENHEIT 9/11 SECRET WINDOW RESIDENT EVIL 2
PREMIERE THEATRE	BOURNE SUPREMACY

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	SAVED
CINEMA-2	KRISANTA, IBA KA
CINEMA-3	ANACONDAS
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	HEAVEN'S POND
CINEMA-6	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
CINEMA-7	KAPAG PALAY NAGING BIGAS (RE-ISSUE)
CINEMA-8	DON'T TEMPT ME (RE-ISSUE)
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	RESIDENT EVIL: APOCALYPSE
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	RESIDENT EVIL: APOCALYPSE
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	RAISING HELEN
CINEMA-12	SECRET WINDOW
CINEMA-14	BOURNE SUPREMACY
CINEMA-15	FENG SHUI

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

(LAS PINAS)	ANACONDAS
CINEMA-1	FENG SHUI
CINEMA-2	DODGEBALL
CINEMA-4	[illegible]

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

Robinsons MOVIEWORLD CAn be YOUR CINEMA too!

COMING SOON:
Alexander -- *November 5*
(Colin Farrell, Val Kilmer, Angelina Jolie)
The Incredibles -- *November 10*
(Holly Hunter, Samul L. Jackson)
Polar Express -- *November 24*
(Tom Hanks, Cris Copolla)
Gospel of John -- *December 01*
(Christpher P(lummer, Henry Ian Curik)

For **BLOCK SCREENINGS** inquiries and reservations, please call the **Marketing services Department** at 687-7945 to 47 • 683-0961 • 633-4446 • 636-2894 locs. 14 / 15

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CINEMAS
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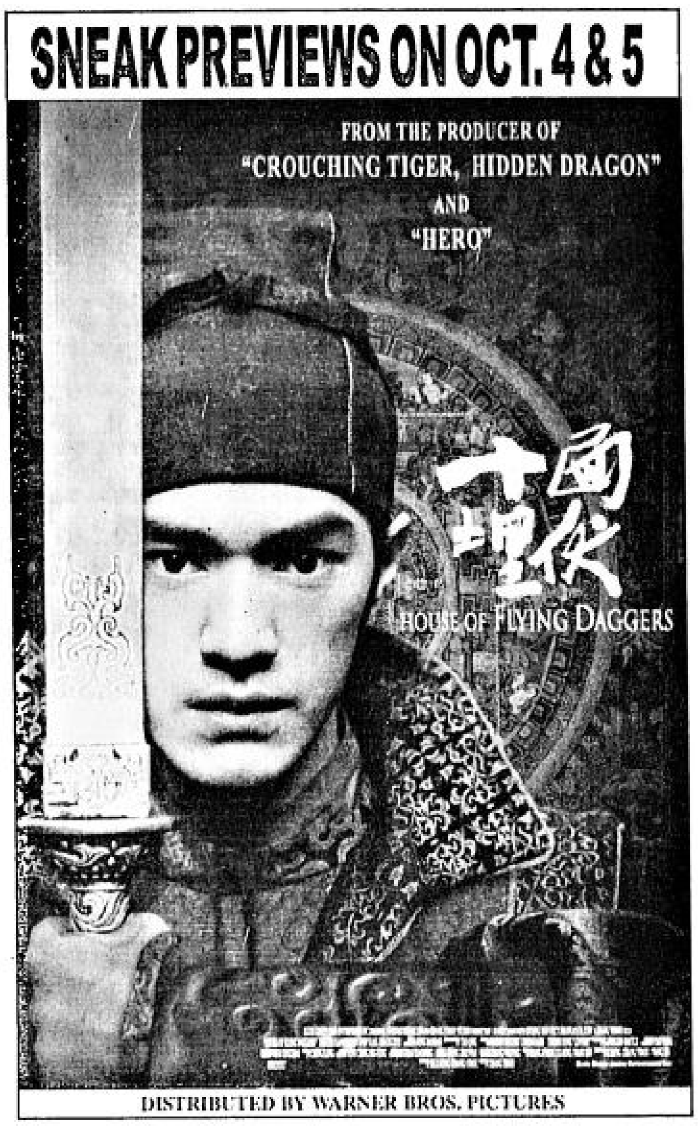
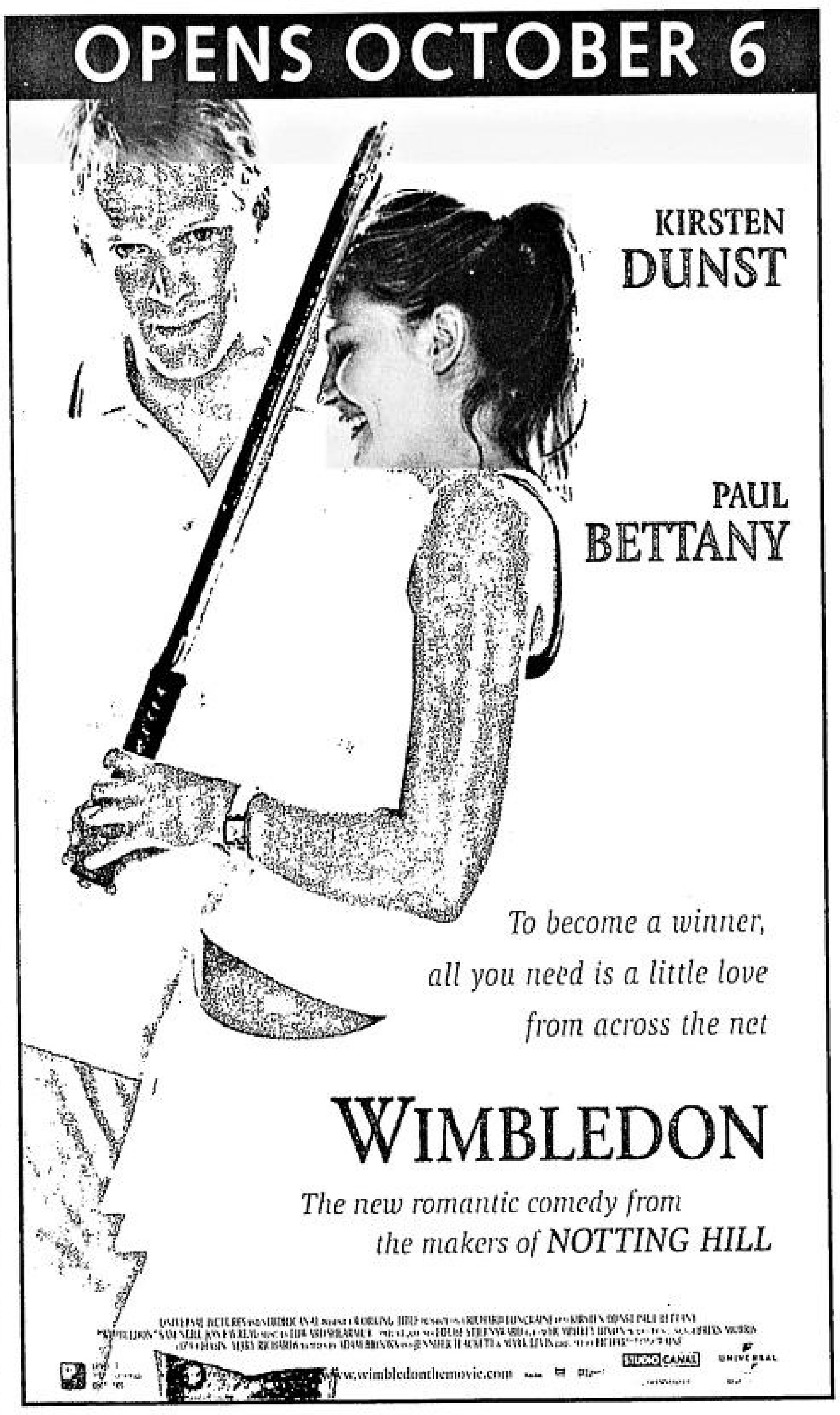

SNEAK PREVIEWS ON OCT. 4 & 5
FROM THE PRODUCER OF "CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON" AND "HERO"
HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS
DISTRIBUTED BY WARNER BROS. PICTURES


OPENS OCTOBER 6
KIRSTEN DUNST
PAUL BETTANY
To become a winner, all you need is a little love from across the net
WIMBLEDON
The new romantic comedy from the makers of NOTTING HILL
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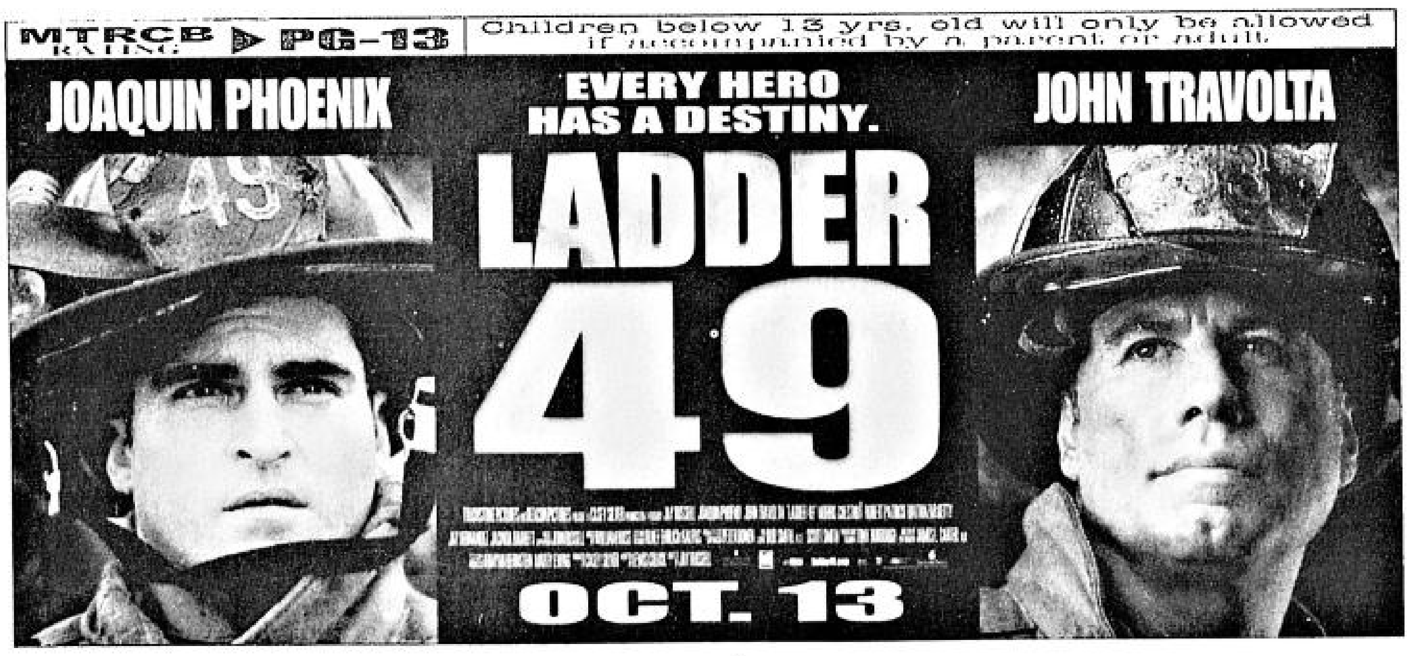
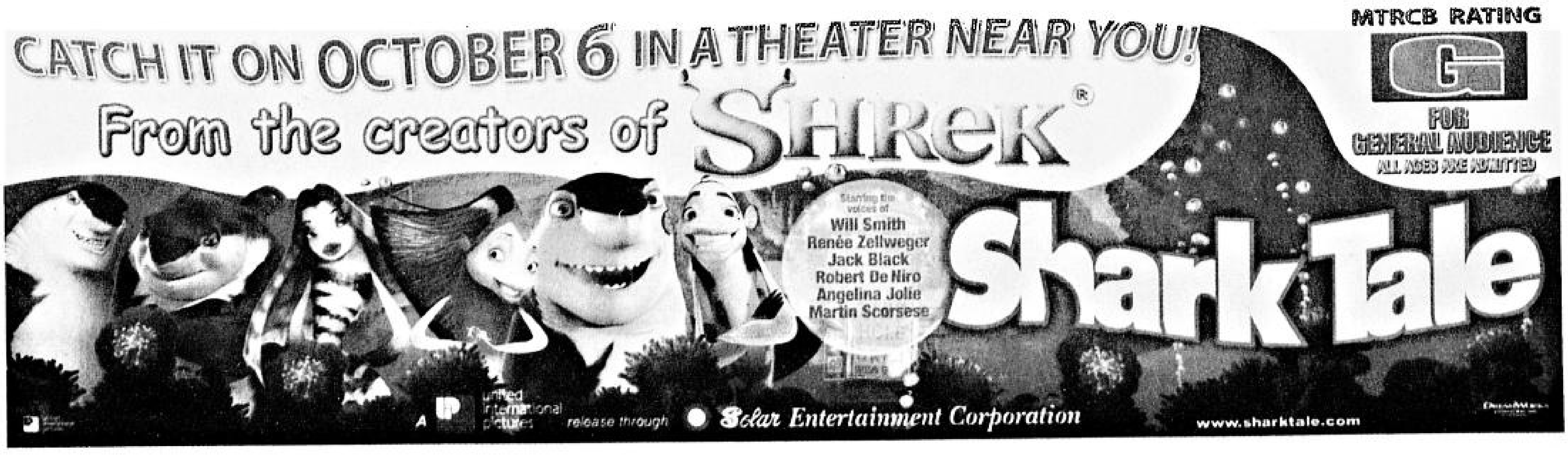
STUDIO CANAL
UNIVERSAL

NOW SHOWING
Flash! Flash! Flash!
Breaking Boxoffice Records in Manila.
MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP
#1 MOVIE IN AMERICA
MILLA JOVOVICH
The beginning of the end
RESIDENT EVIL: Apocalypse


MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
JOAQUIN PHOENIX
EVERY HERO HAS A DESTINY.
LADDER 49
JOHN TRAVOLTA
OCT. 13


CATCH IT ON OCTOBER 6 IN A THEATER NEAR YOU!
From the creators of SHREK®
MTRCB RATING
G
FOR GENERAL AUDIENCE
ALL AGES ARE ADMITTED
Starring the voices of
Will Smith
Renée Zellweger
Jack Black
Robert De Niro
Angelina Jolie
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Shark Tale
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22nd Annual National Consumer's Quality Award 2004
Family Consumers Choice Award 2003

NOW SHOWING

GALLERIA 632-9115 to 16

Cinema	Film	Times
CINEMA 1 THX	RESIDENT EVIL 2	12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30
2	RAISING HELEN	11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10.00
3	FENG SHUI	10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
4	SECRET WINDOW	10:45, 1:00 3:15, 5:30, 7.45, 10:00
5	RESIDENT EVIL 2	10:45, 1.00, 3.15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
6	THE BOURNE SUPREMACY	10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
7	THE TERMINAL	11:20, 2.00, 4:40, 7:20, 10.00
8	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING	12:40, 3:00, 5.20, 7.40, 10.00
9	FAHRENHEIT 9/11	11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10 00
10	THE NOTEBOOK	11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10.00

Regular Price: P150 THX / P100/70 for two levels cinemas / P100 for one level cinemas

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

Cinema	Film	Times
1	RESIDENT EVIL 2	10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50
2	RAISING HELEN	10:10, 12:35, 3:00, 5:25, 7:50, 10:00
3	THE BOURNE SUPREMACY	11.05, 1:05, 3:45, 6.05, 8.20, 10.00
4	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING	10.20, 12:30, 2.50, 5.10, 7.30, 9.50
5	FENG SHUI	10:35, 12.50, 3 05, 5.20, 7:35, 9.50
6	SECRET WINDOW	10:30, 12:30, 2.30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:00
7	FAHRENHEIT 9/11	10:10, 12:35, 3 00, 5 25, 7:50, 10:00

METRO EAST 682-8193/99 / 682-8280

Cinema	Film	Times
1	RAISING HELEN	12:30, 3:20, 6:10, 9:00
2	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING	11:20,1:40, 6:30, 9:00
3	KRISANTA...IBA KA	10:50, 12.50, 2.50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00
4	THE TERMINAL	11:00, 1.30, 4.00, 6:30, 9.00
5	RESIDENT EVIL 2	11:30, 1.55, 4.20, 6.45, 9:10
6	SECRET WINDOW	10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6.50, 9.00
7	THE BOURNE SUPREMACY	11.20, 1:40, 4 00, 6 20, 8 40, 10 30
8	FENG SHUI	11:20, 1:40, 4 00, 6 20, 8 40, 10:30

NOVALICHES 935-3229 / 31
1 RESIDENT EVIL 2
2 EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
3 FENG SHUI
4 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY
5 RESIDENT EVIL 2
6 SECRET WINDOW
7 RAISING HELEN
8 SAVED

Citisquare MALABON 288-0985/2575
1 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
2 FENG SHUI
3 HAUNTED SPIRITS 2
4 KRISANTA...IBA KA

CAINTA 240-4661
1 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY
2 FENG SHUI
3 RAISING HELEN
4 KRISANTA...IBA KA

LIPA 757-3664 / 312-5870
1 EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
2 SAVED
3 JANDARA
4 FENG SHUI
5 MINDHUNTERS

STA. ROSA (049)837-0907
1 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY
2 EXORCIST THE BEGINNING
3 TAKAW TINGIN
4 MINDHUNTERS
5 FENG SHUI

DASMARIÑAS 852-2125 / 416-4332
1 EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
2 TAKAW TINGIN
3 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY
4 SAVED
5 FENG SHUI

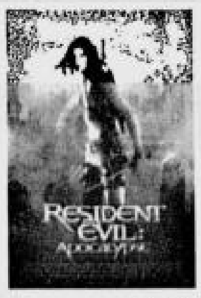
ANGELES
1 DODGEBALL
2 13 GOING ON 30
3 FENG SHUI
4 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY

STARMILLS San Fernando, Pampanga 875-1927 / 961-5270
1 DODGEBALL
2 TAKAW TINGIN
3 FENG SHUI
4 THE NOTEBOOK
5 13 GOING ON 30
6 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY

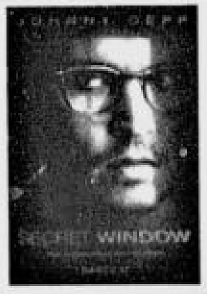
IMUS 471-8188 / 875-5858
1 HEAVEN'S POND
2 RAISING HELEN
3 KRISANTA...IBA KA
4 EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
5 FENG SHUI
6 SAVED

BACOLOD 441-0458/59
1 EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
2 TAG-INIT
3 THE TERMINAL
4 DODGEBALL
5 JANDARA
6 MINDHUNTERS

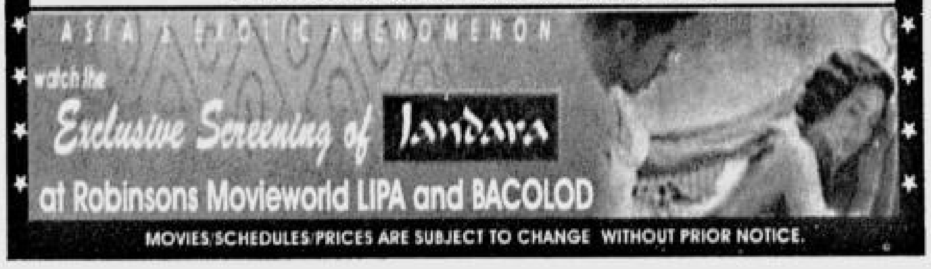
ILOILO 336-8070/78
1 EXORCIST THE BEGINNING
2 FENG SHUI
3 THE TERMINAL
4 THE TOOL BOX MURDERS
5 TAG-INIT
6 THE NOTEBOOK



See it Feels Best
THX



at ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD


ASIA'S EXOTIC PHENOMENON
watch the
Exclusive Screening of Jandara
at Robinsons Movieworld LIPA and BACOLOD

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AYALA CINEMAS THX
Movies/schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 729-7777

ATC Alabang Town Center	G1 Glorietta 1	G4 Glorietta 4	GB3 Greenbelt 3	ACC Ayala Center Cebu
1 RESIDENT EVIL: APOCALYPSE	1 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY	1 RAISING HELEN 5 FENG SHUI	GUARANTEED SEATS 1 RAISING HELEN 1 20, 3 50, 6 20, 8 50, 11 20	1 RESIDENT EVIL: APOCALYPSE
2 RAISING HELEN	2 RESIDENT EVIL: APOCALYPSE	2 SECRET WINDOW 6 RESIDENT EVIL: APOCALYPSE	GUARANTEED SEATS 2 RESIDENT EVIL: APOCALYPSE 2 20, 4 35, 6 50, 9 05, 11 20	2 13 GOING ON 30
3 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY	3 RAISING HELEN	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 THE BOURNE ... 1 10, 3 30, 5.50, 8.10, 10 30 7 FAHRENHEIT 9/11	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 FAHRENHEIT 9/11 1 20, 3 50, 6 20, 8 50, 11 20	3 DODGEBALL
4 FENG SHUI	4 FENG SHUI	4 THE TERMINAL	GUARANTEED SEATS 4 SECRET WINDOW 1 05, 3 10, 5 15, 7 20, 9 25, 11 30	4 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY
5 SECRET WINDOW			GUARANTEED SEATS 5 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY 2 10, 4 30, 6 50, 9 10, 11 30	5 FENG SHUI

GB1 Greenbelt 1		
1	FAHRENHEIT 9 / 11	11 40, 2 10, 4 40, 7 10, 9 40
2	RAISING HELEN	11 40, 2 10, 4 40, 7 10, 9 40

At the Activity Center

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ENTERTAINMENT LIVE!

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GREENBELT 2: MUSIC STYLES from Thursday to Saturday (7-10pm) feat. The Real Groove (Thu) Acoustic Anthology (Fri) Acoustic Jive w/ May Bayot	NEO CORPO ART EXHIBIT Sept. 16-30 (Greenbelt 3 Lobby)

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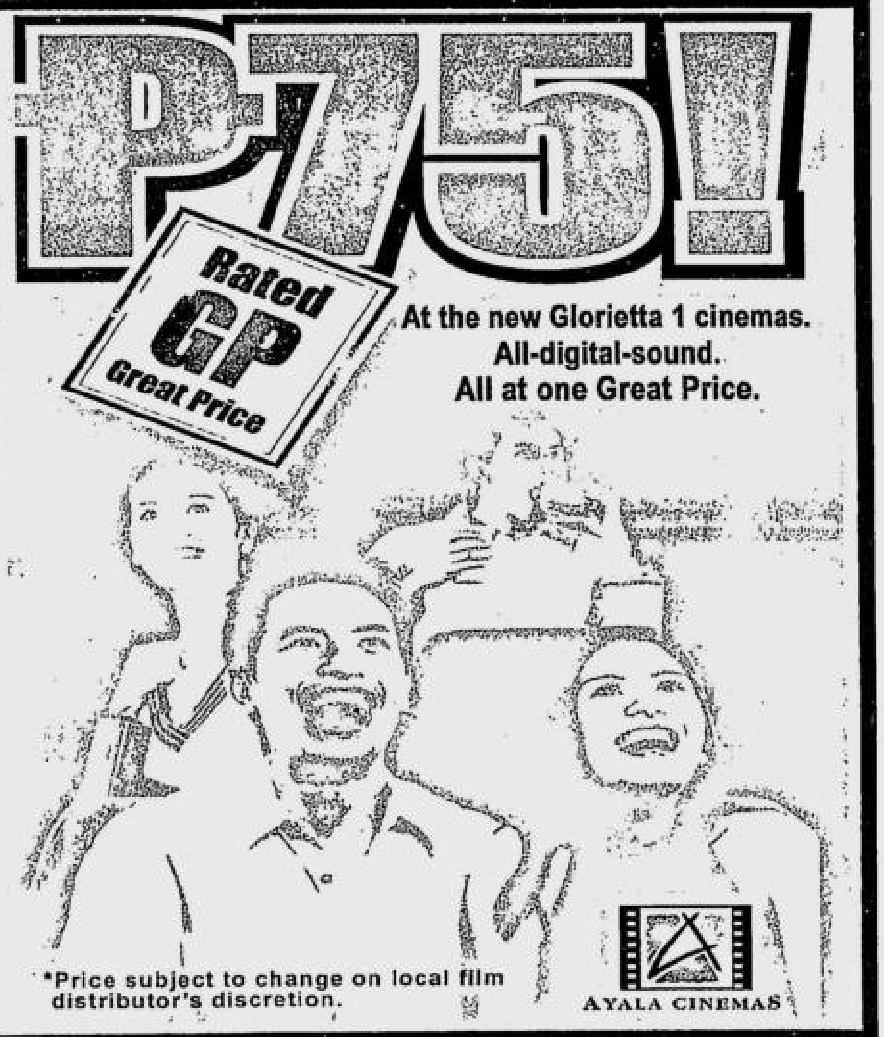

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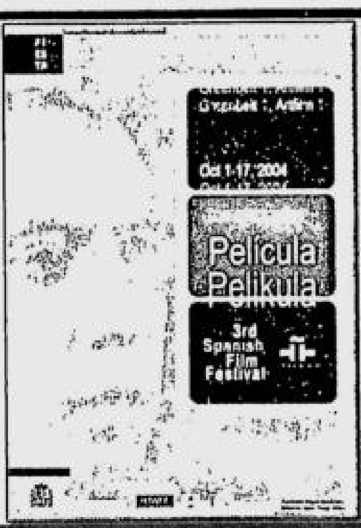

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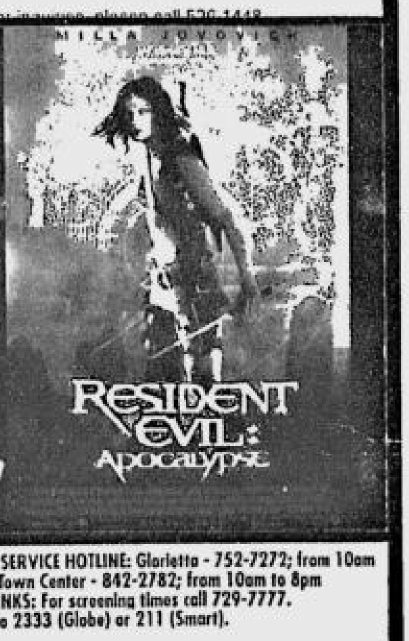

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Kaleidoscope

From page A2-3

Renaissance Hotel. A German *á la carte* menu will be featured, offering authentic meals, Oct. 1 to 30.

German Cuisine and Open House at the German Club. Come and celebrate almost a hundred years of serving German delicacies at its best. Oct. 4 to 9; Oct. 25 to 30.

German Game Cuisine at Tivoli's, Mandarin Oriental Hotel. Held for the fifth time, this rare gastronomic adventure will showcase original recipes of German favorites. Oct. 4 to 17.

German Cuisine at Nielsen's, The Manila Peninsula Hotel. German cuisine at the Buffet Theme Nights, every Monday and Tuesday. Oct. 4 to 26.

Arts/Fashion

The Philippines ca. 1600-1900, A German Retrospective. The Gallery of Prints will present an exhibition of old illustrations about the Philippines by German writers, publishers, print makers, cartographers and scholars. Oct. 8 to 17, Rockwell Power Plant Mall, R1 Hallway.

Eyes of Wisdom photo exhibit. Famous German lensman Ralf Tooten and editor Bernhard Strathmann will present 100 photographs of religious personalities encountered in their four-year journey. Oct. 15 to 22, Podium.

Mercedes Benz Fashion Show. A touch of NY's Fashion Week. Famous German fashion brands Escada, Escada Sport, Laurel, Betty Barclay and Puma will take part in what promises to be an awesome event of trend and style. To complete the night of glamour, there will be a display of brand new Mercedes Benzes, and cocktails. Oct. 22, Mercedes Benz Showroom, Fort Bonifacio.

Education

German School Party and Presentation. Talented students take centerstage to present songs accompanied by drums, a life-size puppets' dance, and Circus Campino. Oct. 17, 2 to 5 p.m., Rockwell Plaza Strip; Oct. 9 and 10, 2 to 5 p.m., Glorietta Activity Center.

Lectures in Manila universities. To emphasize German's firm place in the Philippines, the topics to be discussed will include policies on German financial and technical assistance, renewable energy, technology, and social market economy. Nov. 21 and 22.

Business

What are German-Philippine relations without business encounters? On Nov. 22, a German infrastructure mission will be in Manila for a Philippine-German Business Dialogue on infrastructure and investment opportunities.

For more information on German Month, visit www.germany-philippines, or call Fairs and More at 845-1324.

'The Swan' and 'Born Diva' compared

By Nestor U. Torre

"THE SWAN" on Studio 23 has impressed viewers with its "total" makeovers. But, some people have expressed doubts about the authenticity of the transformative processes involved. They believe that the show's "ducklings" aren't as "ugly" as they seem to be, so their emergence as beautiful "swans" is more illusion than fact.

To convince the doubters, the show has released detailed reports on some of its 16 contenders. Take Rachel Love-Fraser, who was the winner in the show's pilot episode. The married office worker from Washington was made to undergo seven procedures and lost 32 pounds in three months.

Favorite fantasy

BETH LAY. Before and after her radical makeover.

Cristina Tyree is an office administrator from California. Her tummy tuck was one of the most radical ever performed by the show's cosmetic surgeons. She was very happy to lose the fat around her midsection, so she could seriously take up her favorite fantasy "hobby"—belly dancing.

Belinda Bessant, a hospice worker in Las Vegas, had a total of 11 hours of surgery. Cindy Igle, a homemaker from San Diego, was most unhappy about her sagging breasts. After 14 procedures, she is now a D cup, and sports a new nose, to boot.

And Beth Lay, a customer-service supervisor, had liposuction done on her legs, a painful procedure that she endured because she was determined to turn her life around.

In the States, the Fox TV production held its finals last May 24, a genuine TV event that was viewed by more than 10 million people.

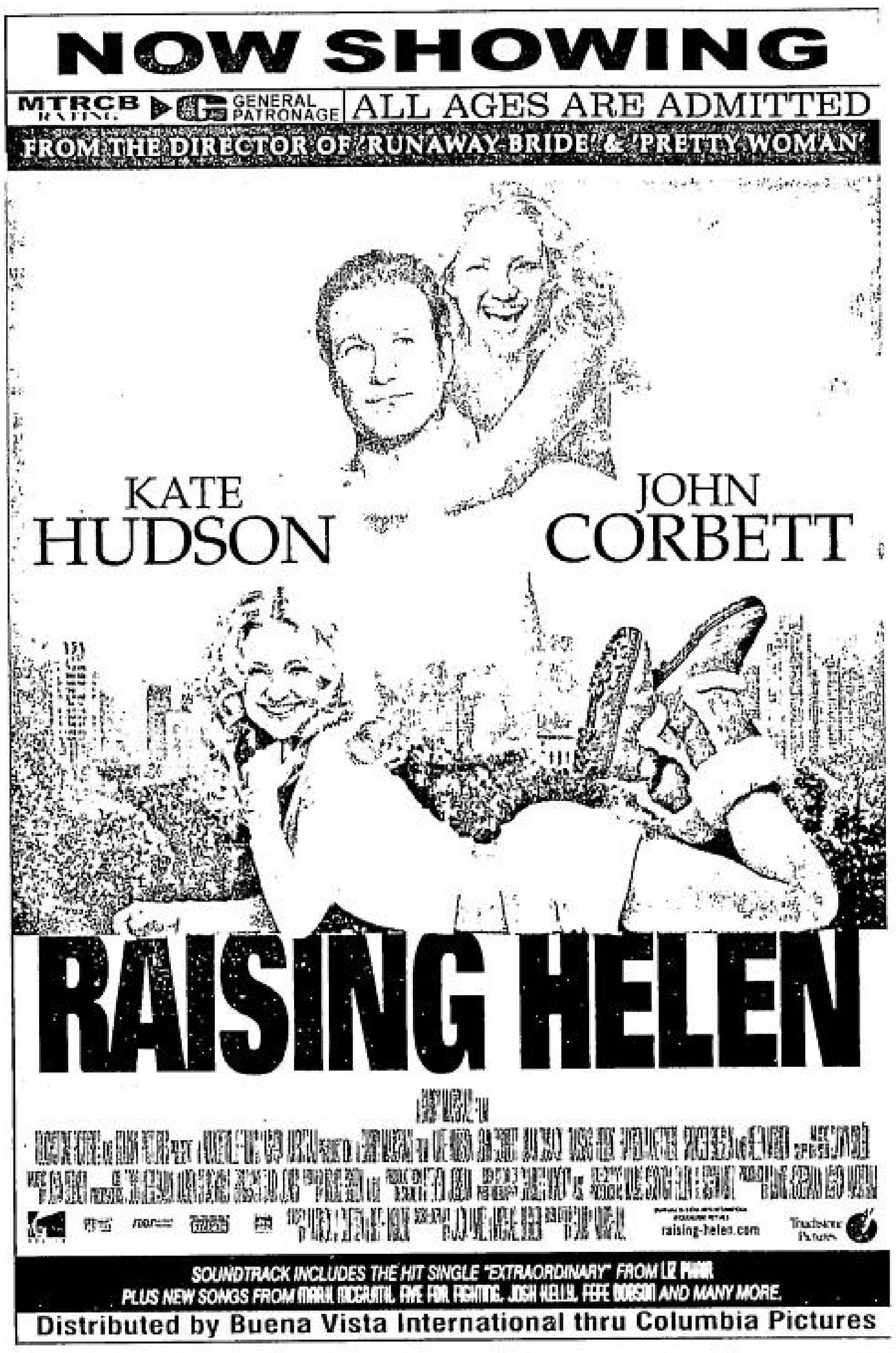
Striking

Its success has been so striking that its format has been imitated all over the world. In the Philippines, it's obviously inspired the "Born Diva" singing tilt on Channel 2.

What's the difference between "The Swan" and its emulators? Comparing "The Swan" with "Born Diva," we see that the second show's plus is the fact that it's factored singing talent into its equation.

On the other hand, its minus point is the fact that its makeovers aren't as extensive as the procedures on the original show:

"The Swan" takes three months and up to 16 procedures (nose jobs, breast enlargement, some dental work) and the time frame on "Born Diva" is obviously more circumscribed, hence the limited impact of its "makeovers."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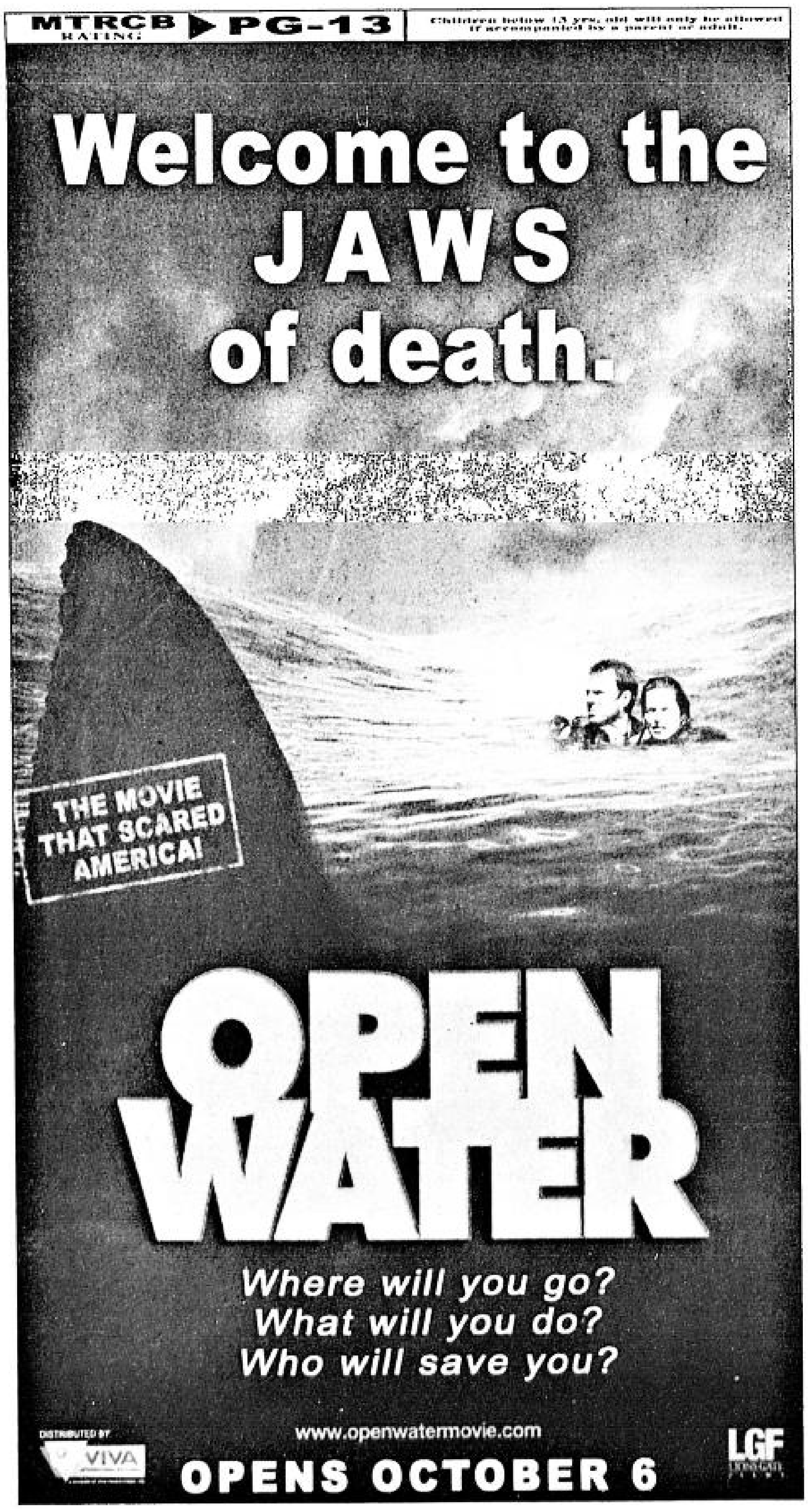
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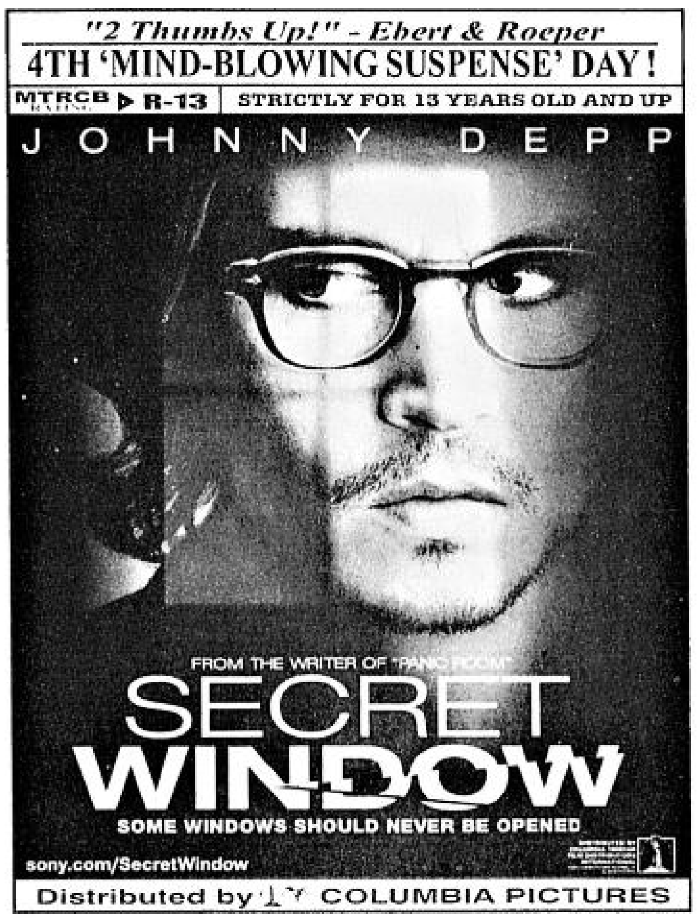
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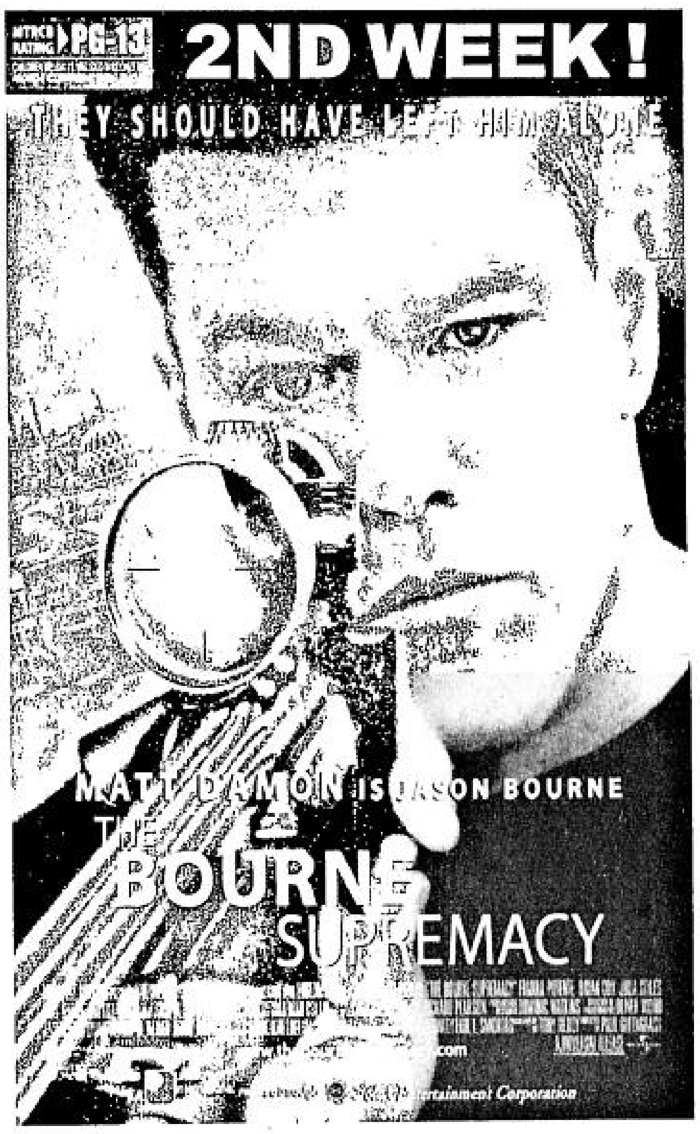
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Anita Baker opens up about music and family

By Rito P. Asilo

WE had mixed feelings when we were asked if we wanted to interview Anita Baker, the 46-year-old, eight-time Grammy winner, who breathed life and soul into timeless, elegant love songs like "Sweet Love," "Rapture" and "Just Because."

She's back with her long-awaited 10-track collection, "My Everything," which contains nine of her compositions, and a duet with Babyface ("Like You Used to Do").

Frequent spins

Truth to tell, she is one of our favorite R&B chanteuses, and her 1986 "Rapture" album still takes frequent spins in our CD player.

We didn't even notice that it's been 10 years since her last album, "Rhythm of Love," came out. Then, she took a self-imposed sabbatical from performing.

Of course, we were wary about the highly-revered diva's stern, tight-lipped reputation. But, we couldn't pass up the chance to chat with her.

When our mobile phone rang, we didn't know what to expect—but, boy, we were glad to be proven wrong. The Anita Baker we talked to was warm, affable and surprisingly honest. Sometime during our talk, we knew that we had struck a vulnerable nerve.

In 1993, she married Walter Bridgewater. Shortly thereafter, she announced that she was going to take a break from the music scene. Why the decade-long hiatus? Back then, her official answer was: "I needed to rest, to take care of my family.".

BAKER. Warm, affable and surprisingly honest.

But, when Anita opened up to us, she confided that the '90s were the best and the worst of times for her: "It was pretty amazing—I got married and had kids. Then, we found out that my father had bone cancer, and my mom was afflicted with Alzheimer's disease. I couldn't write, I couldn't sing—I couldn't do anything creative! So, I decided to take a break."

Beautiful voices

Did she miss performing? "No. My hands were full. My children grounded me—I cooked breakfast at 7 a.m. everyday, my husband and I split the pick-ups, the boys' music lessons and PTA meetings."

Do her sons sing? "They have beautiful voices, but they don't realize it yet—they have perfect pitch! Eddie plays the piano, Walter the drums."

When we asked Anita about how different the new album is from the previous ones, she impressed us even more because, unlike many celebrities, she didn't come into the interview with an arsenal of ready-made, *de-kahon* answers. Other singers would have enumerated a million and one reasons, but she simply replied: "I'm afraid that it's just more of the same, beautiful love songs." And, we're not complaining!

How was it working with Babyface? "We met in Detroit, and we just clicked! We sat on the floor for more than an hour, and came up with three songs. It was amazing!"

If she were to choose artists she could record duets with, who would they be? She answered: "Alicia Keys, India Arie, Rochelle Ferrell."

Favorite tracks in the new album? "'I Can't Sleep at Night' and the ballad, 'How Does It Feel?' I like the retro sound of 'How Could You Love Me?'"

She wrote "Men in My Life" for her husband and sons, although when we asked her what they thought of it, she laughed: "Oh, my kids just said, 'Mom, make me a sandwich!'"

Writer's perspective

Her favorite Anita Baker songs? "From a writer's perspective, it would have to be 'Fairy Tales.' But, I love singing 'You Bring Me Joy,' 'Sweet Love' and 'You're My Everything.'"

Baker added: "I'd love to visit Manila with my kids next year. Please tell my friends in the Philippines that they have my love, respect and admiration."

A few days after our chat with Anita, "My Everything" debuted at No. 4 at Billboard's Hot 200, an impressive feat on a pop chart littered with hip-hop and dance music.

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Zhang Ziyi stars in seven new films

ZHANG. Has negated the notion that Asian talents can be used only occasionally in international movies.

By Nestor U. Torre

FROM time to time, Asian actresses have made it to international film screens as lead stars—Nancy Kwan, Miyoshi Umeki, Barbara Perez, Joan Chen, Michelle Yeoh, Gong Li, Lucy Liu—but Zhang Ziyi has outdistanced them all with her prodigiously successful career to date.

She was only 18 when she was plucked out of drama school in China by movie director Zhang Yimou. He promptly cast her in "The Road Home," a drama about a very young teacher in rural China in the 1950s.

Zhang was cast in the lead role, and acquitted herself well, prompting her director to recommend her to Ang Lee, who was looking for a young actress for his own film project, "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon."

Luminosity

Ang Lee liked what he saw, and showcased Zhang so effectively in his film that she shone with the luminosity of an authentic star.

When "Crouching Tiger" became an international hit, it made the global movie audience aware of Zhang Ziyi, and they wanted more of her. Ever eager to give viewers what they want, producers rushed Zhang into the cast of "Rush Hour 2."

That movie also clicked with audiences, and Zhang was on her way. She's become so busy that her new starrers are lined up all the way to 2006!

"House of Flying daggers," another martial-arts movie directed by Zhang Yimou, was a sensation at the Cannes filmfest, and is about to open in town. It will be followed by Wong Kar Wai's much ballyhooed "2046."

Dramas

Also coming soon are the dramas "Purple Butterfly" and "Jasmine Women" (co-starring Joan Chen).

Last July, Zhang completed the Japanese musical, "Raccoon Palace," by Seijun Suzuki. She also won the starring role in "Memoirs of A Geisha," to be directed by Rob Marshall. And she will star opposite Adam Sandler in the comedy, "Good Cook, Likes Music."

That kind of schedule is impressive for any performer, and positively unheard of for an Asian actress. All by her lonesome, Zhang has negated the notion that Asian talents can be

ZHANG/ A3-2

NOW SHOWING

Heady mix of film genres

By Rito P. Asilo

"Fahrenheit 9/11"

D: Michael Moore

MOORE. Fiery passion.

MICHAEL Moore ("Bowling for Columbine") is passionate about politics. It's this fiery passion that fuels his controversial documentaries, and turns them into highly watchable, blisteringly provocative and, yes, entertaining polemics that never fail to rile and amuse viewers.

In his Cannes-winning opus, he attacks the incompetence of George W. Bush, explores the fixing of the 2000 US presidential elections (that led to Al Gore's defeat) and the heartbreaking terroristic attacks on New York's World Trade Center.

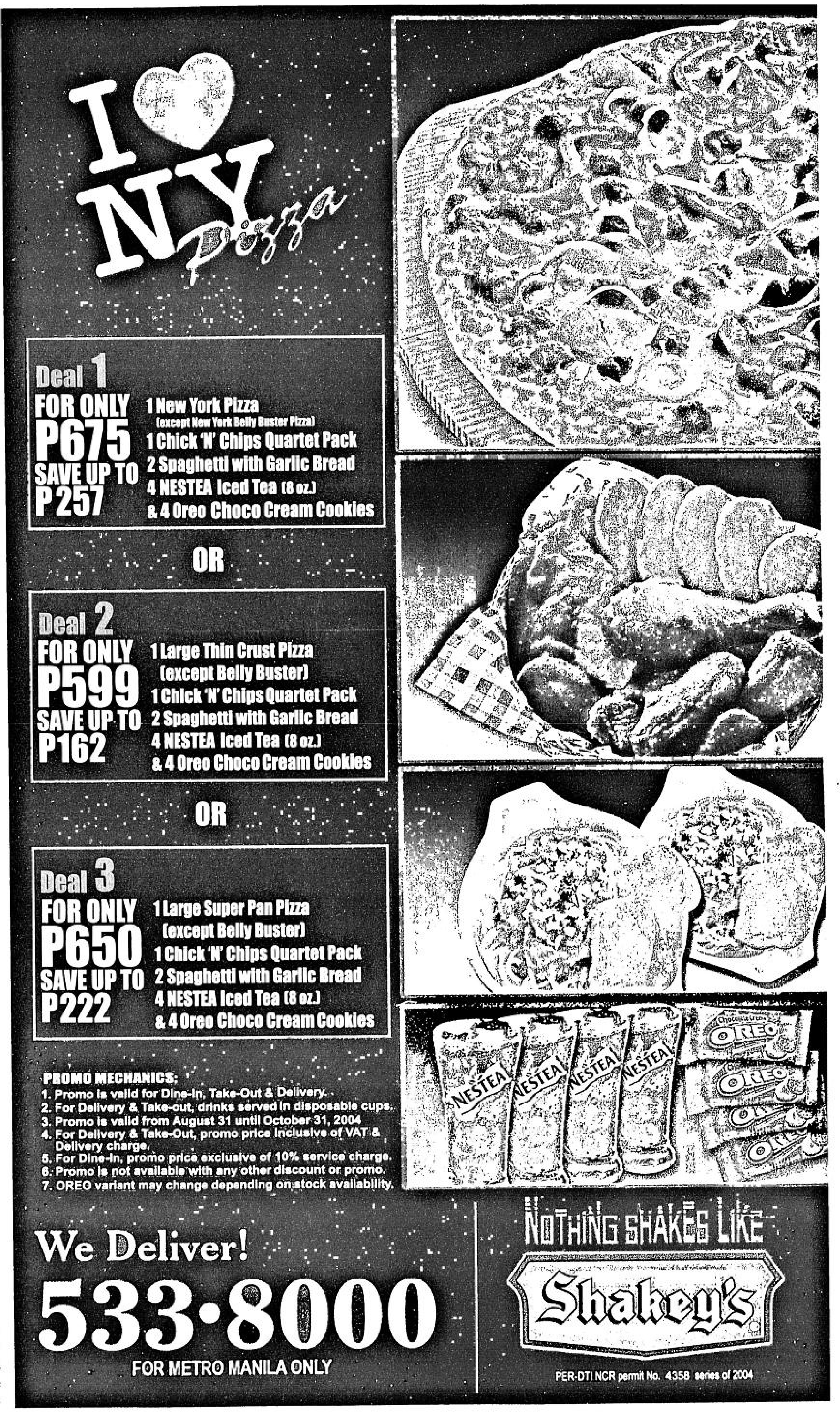
In a segment from the film, Bush lashed back at Moore by dismissing his job as a filmmaker: "Go find real work!" But, the director's "trivial" job may well be John Kerry's best shot at the US presidency! A must-see.

"Raising Helen"

D: Garry Marshall
S: Kate Hudson, John Corbett

Kate Hudson lights up the screen as Helen Harris, a glamorous career woman forced into surrogate motherhood when her sister is killed in a car accident. In a strange twist of fate, her departed sister leaves the custody of her three

HEADY/ A3-2



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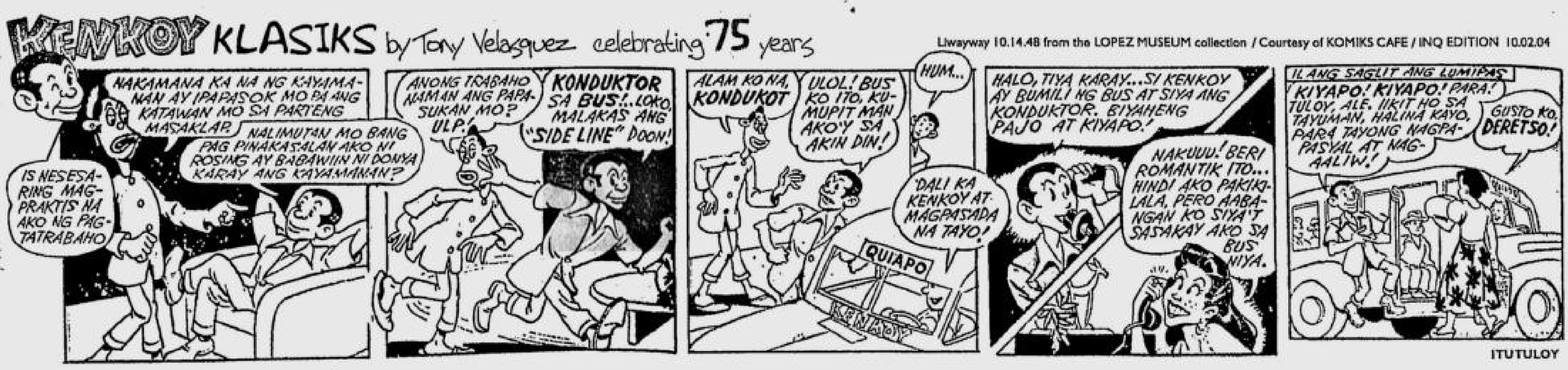
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ITUTULOY

New faces light up the show biz scene

By Nestor U. Torre

VILLANIA. MYX TV's newest video jock.

VILLENA. His talents were honed in workshops.

VILLACORTA. Works for the Elite Modeling Agency.

ABS-CBN GRADUATES. (From left) Yuuki Kadooka,Miles Ocampo, Kathryn Bernardo, Fraz Yap and Sarah Palad.

THE LOCAL entertainment industry attracts a constant stream of new faces like bees to honey. Since show biz fans here are fixated on beauty and youth, that's generally what each season's new talents have going for them.

Take MYX TV's newest video jock, Iya Villania. She flew in from Sydney, Australia in 2002 to pursue a show biz career, and has been successful in her bid for stardom, with stints on "ASAP Fanatic" and "Seasons of Love," aside from commercials and movies.

Sentimental songs

On MYX, she introduces rock videos on "Rock MYX," sentimental songs on "Mellow MYX," and old hits on "Backtrax." She also alternates with VJs Heart Evangelista, Karel Marquez and Luis Manzano on "Pop MYX," which features the latest international and OPM hits.

For his part, MTB TV Idol Ahron Villena is the newest member of the "MTB: Ang Saya-Saya" family. His talents were honed at Workshops @ ABS-CBN under the supervision of Johnny Manahan and Beverly Vergel. The workshops Ahron took were in acting, voice, dance, speech and comedy improvisation.

Workshops @ ABS-CBN is also a source of new child talents, like Miles Ocampo, Yuuki Kadooka, Kathryn Bernardo, Sarah Palad and Fraz Yap. All five young talents have already played choice roles on TV.

Similarly honed by the Talent Center's workshops, the child talents are now ready to compete with other young starlets in the biz—and come out on top. (Call 415-3828.)

Over at GMA-7, the bright hosting discovery is model Bianca Araneta, who now co-emcees the "Digital LG Quiz" show on Sundays with Paolo Bediones.

Combination

Bianca is doing well at her new assignment, and her combination of beauty and brains rates well with viewers, Now, if she can get rid of her American twang, she'll really be OK.

Bianca is enjoying her stint on "Digital LG Quiz," but dreams of hosting a show about one of her raging passions—travel.

Finally: A 30-foot poster of a Filipina modeling Benetton clothes is being displayed in department stores in the USA, Canada, Europe and Asia. The model is Meryl Europa Villacorta, a 16-year-old from Florida who works for the prestigious Elite Modeling Agency.

Meryl has also modeled for Macy's, Robinsons May, and Kohl's, appearing mostly in their fashion catalogues. She was also featured as a model for Macy's in Seventeen magazine.

Meryl is a *morena* beauty who stands 5'8 1/2". She is a third year high school student, and also plays the piano.

Heady mix . . .

From page A3-1

kids to woman-about-town Helen, and *not* to her other, more reliable sister, the efficient homemaker Jenny (a lovable, scene-stealing Joan Cusack). Go figure!

Suddenly, Helen's frenetic lifestyle comes to a screeching halt. But, along the way, she realizes that there's more to life than being a shallow fashionista. Of course, it doesn't hurt that, in her new, more domesticated lifestyle, she meets a dashing pastor (Corbett), who—surprise!—sees beyond her frivolous exterior.

Marshall's latest romantic comedy is light and charming, and puts Hudson's vibrant, sunshine-girl appeal to good use. Unfortunately, his movies are getting repetitive, predictable, and a bit unreal.

You've seen this story many times before, but with different proper names. —Unless you haven't been watching movies in the last 20 years!.

"Resident Evil: Apocalypse"

D: Alexander Witt
S: Milla Jovovich, Oded Fehr

If your idea of a fun night at the movies is watching gory images of stoic, flesh-nibbling zombies grunting and staggering ludicrously about, or ogling at gun-toting, FHM-type babes (Milla Jovovich and Sienna Guillory), this movie is for you.

Otherwise, Alexander Witt's high-adrenaline sequel to Paul W.S. Anderson's big-screen adaptation of the popular video game lacks rhyme or reason—it's witless and logic-free.

This time around, when the underground research laboratory called The Hive is reopened, the experimental T-virus that causes a ravenous affliction contaminates Raccoon City, and makes it doubly difficult for Alice (Jovovich), Jill (Guillory) and other surviving humans to escape from the clutches of the virulent resident "evil" of the city.

"Secret Window"

D: David Koepp
S: Johnny Depp

Mystery novelist Mort Rainey

HEADY/ A3-3

Sigma Delta beauties of the '70s recalled

By Behn Cervantes

(Conclusion)

WHILE Nelia Sancho morphed from national beauty to being a member of the underground, Ruby Umali was being re-invented. As Dayangdayang, Umali was literally all over the fashion scene.

Intelligence and class

Writers pointed out her unique modeling style that she infused with intelligence and class. When Sigma Delta asked me again to direct their next production, I chose Amelia Lapeña Bonifacio's "The Short, Short Life of Citizen Juan."

I had stopped directing Broadway musicals after "Jesus Christ Superstar" in 1970. I thought that my mentor's theme was relevant to the national temper.

DAYANGDAYANG (with NUT). Great elan.

Besides, I had just finished "Barikada," a multi-media production on the Diliman commune, produced by Gintong Silahis, the performing troupe of the Samahang Demokratikong Kabataan. Both were included at the International Theater Festival here in 1971.

Nelia was then Grand Archon of the sorority, so we called upon Ruby to lend her name and talent to the play, with NUT as leading man again.

Fully apparent

Ruby's early signs of professionalism were now fully apparent. I noted that she was well aware of lighting techniques when she was being shot for a cover of the Asia-Philippine Leader magazine. She was easy to direct, listened to instructions, and executed them with great elan.

She was in good company, supported by the likes of Joonee Gamboa, Winnie Monsod, Tony Cervantes, Vic Puyat and Sigma Delta alumnae Nanette Tiongco and Cora Yabut.

Promise

I was amazed to note that Nelia and NUT were intertwined in those two memorable productions, where the promise and admirable virtues of two very pretty and statuesque ladies were first noticed.

Little did I realize that these two ladies, fine representatives of a colorful but chaotic period, would blossom into such amazing women to be admired for virtues they displayed early on—with simple but firm conviction!

Zhang Ziyi . . .

From page A3-1

used only occasionally in international movies.

Who knows, as her command of English improves, she could move into the rarefied level of "color-blind casting," and snag roles that would otherwise go to Caucasian actresses.

What about her acting ability, has it improved since "The Road Home"? Zhang Yimou, who directed her in "Road" *and* "House of Flying Daggers," shares:

"She's become a much better actress. I remember when I was shooting 'Road' and I wanted to make her cry for a scene, we had to wait for half a day! Now, her acting has become much fuller, more rounded.

The only one

"On 'House of Flying Daggers,' I needed an actress who could fight as well as act, and she filled the bill beautifully. If you're looking for somebody who's twentysomething who can do the action and the acting, she's probably the only one."

Blind dancer

Set near the end of the Tang Dynasty, "Daggers" revolves around police deputies who tangle with Mei (Zhang Ziyi), a blind dancer suspected of having ties to a revolutionary faction. Enraptured by her, the deputies concoct a plan to save her from capture.

To prepare for her challenging role, Zhang lived with a blind girl for two months. She admits: "I had no idea that a blind person's world is so completely different!" Zhang's role also allows her to showcase her dancing ability, which she's honed since age 11.

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM OCT. 2 - OCT. 8

CH	2	4	5	7	9	13	23	25	29
[illegible]	6:30 Star in A Million 7:30 TV Patrol 8:00 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 9:00 Home Along da Airport 10:00 Victim 11:00 Kontrobersyal 11:30 Sports Unlimited	6:00 National Geographic 7:00 Yan Ang Pinoy 8:00 Search for the 1st Tanduay Billiards Player	6:00 Asian 9 Ball 7:00 Three Blind Dates 8:00 Wow Mali 9:00 Sing Galing 10:00 Maverick & Ariel 10:30 ABC Treats *Circle of Ten*	5:30 Pinoy Pop Superstar 6:30 Bitoy's Funniest Videos 7:30 Extra Challenge 8:15 Imbestigador 9:30 Idol Ko Si Kap 11:10 Out	6:00 Isumbong Mo Kay Tulfo 7:00 7 Days 8:00 John Doe 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse 11:00 PGMA	6:00 Jobs and Visa Central 7:00 Bitag 8:00 Ugnayang Pambansa 9:00 D.E.N.R. 10:00 El Shaddai	6:00 Sports TV 6:30 Game Plan 7:00 7th Heaven 7:50 Boston Public 8:40 America's Next Top Model 9:30 Studio 23 Presents 11:15 Real Deel	6:00 Agila Reports 6:30 Screen Savers 7:30 Euromaxx 8:00 Car Guys 8:30 DWTV Journal 9:00 Ang Tamang Daan 10:00 Pasugo	6:00 RJ Music Videos 9:00 Music Videos 10:00 Music Videos 11:00 Music Videos
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Mowelfund boosts aid for film workers

By Nestor U. Torre

THIRTY years ago, we were asked by film industry leader Joseph Estrada to direct a big show at the Araneta Coliseum to raise funds to finance the social welfare activities of the new organization, the Movie Workers Welfare Foundation (Mowelfund).

That benefit concert was truly star-studded. Top movie luminaries performed for free to raise funds for the industry's "little" people, who have a chronically difficult time making both ends meet.

Financial woes

Since then, we have kept tabs on Mowelfund, and have been gratified to see that it's spent millions to help its more than 5,000 members alleviate their financial woes.

Some months ago, when we heard that Mowelfund's share of the proceeds of the Metro filmfest had been slashed, we wrote against the move, and we were happy when part of the cut was restored.

More recently, we again wrote about movie workers' need for hospitalization and housing, and we were pleasantly surprised when a housing executive expressed interest in helping Mowelfund out in this regard.

We linked her up with Mowelfund head Boots Anson-Roa, and we're happy to hear that Mowelfund will soon launch a low-cost housing program integrated with Creba Housing Foundation and Pag-Ibig.

We realize, of course, that much more needs to be done for our movie workers and their families, who are now having an even harder time due to the movie industry's current slump.

That's why we were gratified to learn that Mowelfund is further improving its ability to generate additional income by renting out some of its facilities and outlets.

Movie mogul

Substantial help in this regard was recently forthcoming when movie mogul Ng Meng Tam donated equipment and facilities for a 34-seat mini-theater and preview room at the ground floor of Mowelfund's building on Rosario dr. in Cubao, QC.

Also completed was the Bulwagang Nepomuceno multi-purpose hall. The facilities were blessed last Sept. 24 at the Mowelfund Plaza, a signal event that was graced by the movie industry's top leaders.

The new facilities will be available at subsidized rates to film-related agencies and educational, civic and professional institutions.

These and other new initiatives will boost Mowelfund's ability to help its many needy members in terms of welfare, medical and burial assistance, education, livelihood and low-cost housing.

Beneficiaries

Boots Anson-Roa shares, "Mowelfund provides assistance, some repeatedly within the same year, to some 5,500 members for medicine and hospitalization. It counts around 900 death beneficiaries, and has extended institutional help to film-related agencies and 100 non-members via donations and services.

Livelihood program

"It has graduated several hundreds through its year-old livelihood program on reflexology, hair cutting, food making, and computer training in cooperation with BH Foundation.

"In terms of low-cost housing, a pilot Mowelfund village is being planned in Monterey Hills, San Mateo, just off Marikina."

These are encouraging developments. We can all do our bit by supporting Mowelfund's activities and adding to its welfare funds by renting its facilities. Our movie workers need all the help they can get!

AT MINI-THEATER BLESSING. From left, Ng Meng Tam, Susan Roces, Mother Lily, Boots Anson-Roa and Fernando Poe Jr.

Heady mix . . .

• From page A3-2

(Johnny Depp) is having a bad day. As if a collapsing marriage isn't enough (he catches his wife in bed with another man), he finds himself stalked by a spooky stranger (John Turturro), who accuses Mort of plagiarizing his story.

Koepp once again examines the dark recesses of the human mind in this relatively engaging thriller, based on Stephen King's "Secret Window, Secret Garden."

Depp, Turturro and company create complex, nuanced characters, but the movie holds back on character development, and fails to cook up a convincing finale that could have made the viewing experience more involving.

As for us, we were spooked more by Turturro's ridiculously menacing, oversized hat!

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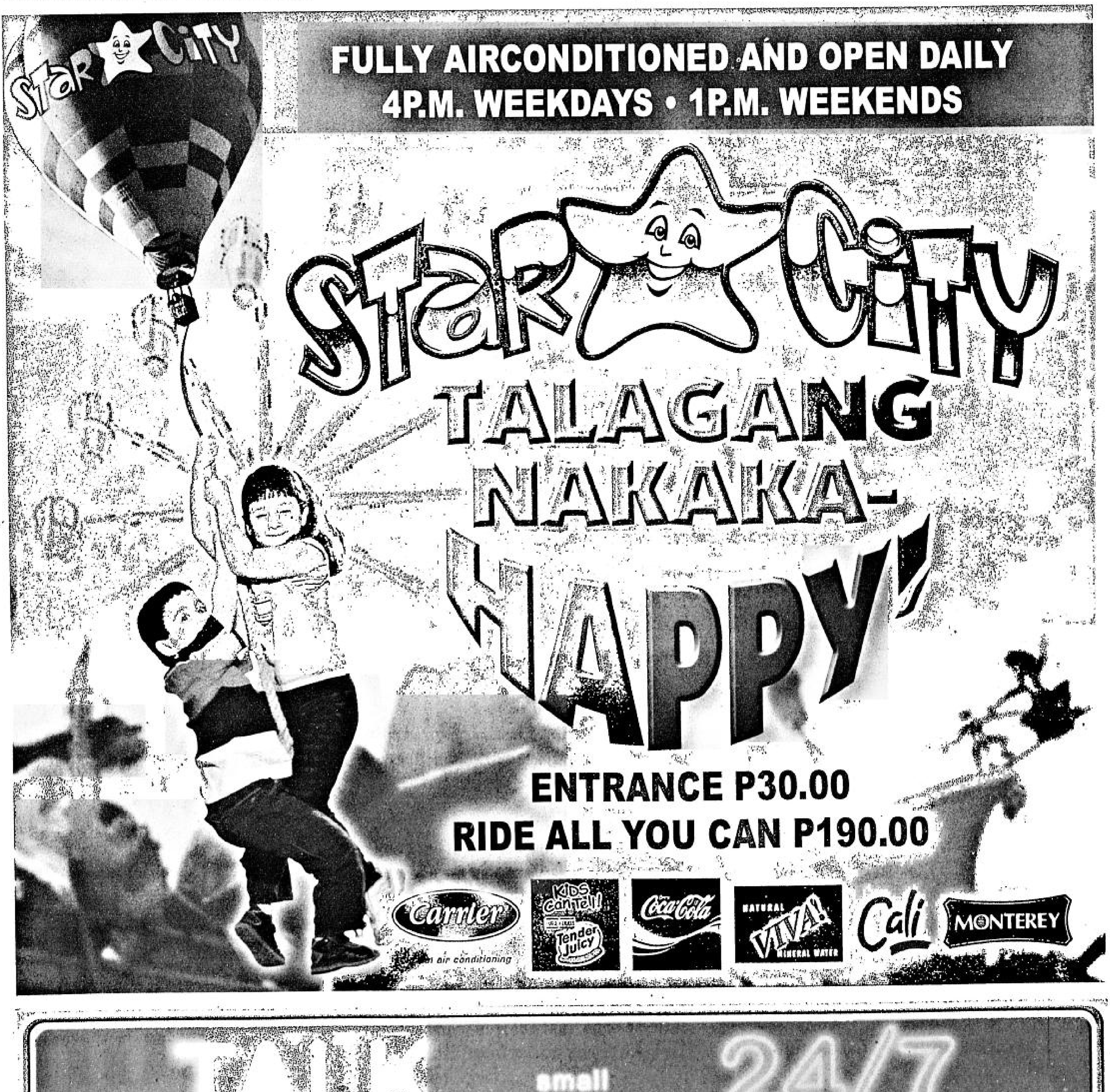

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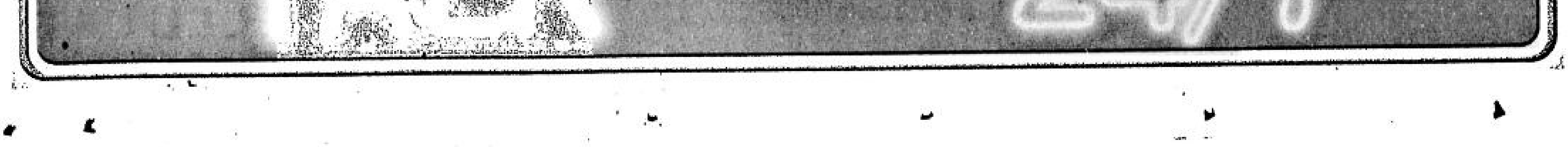

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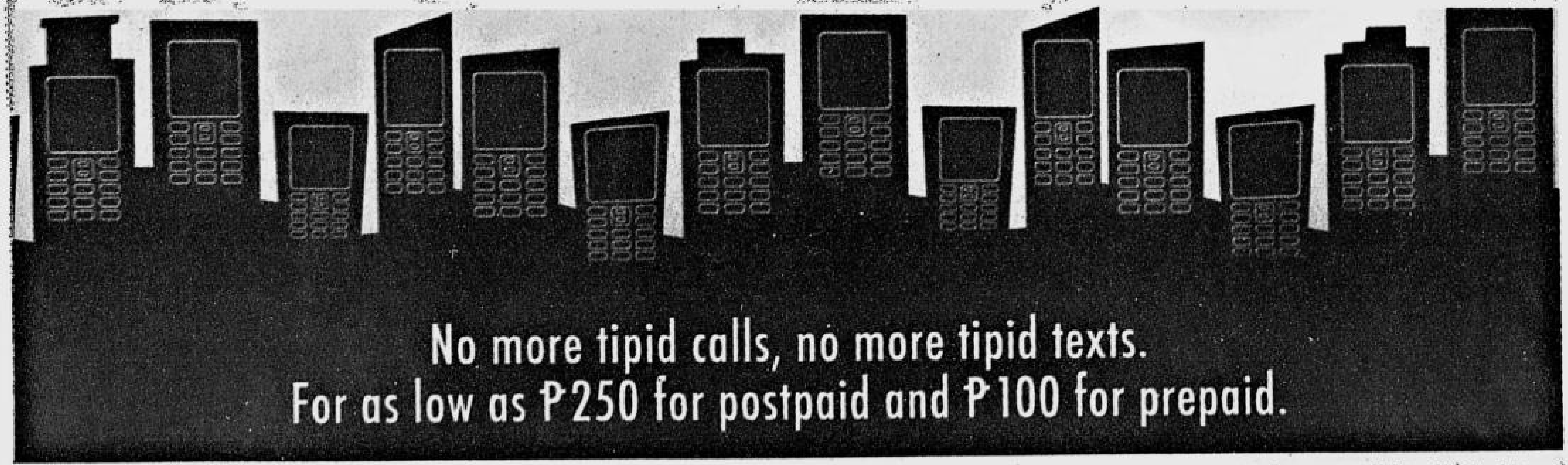

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Ecozone investments surge 90% to ₱30.4B

By Ronnel W. Domingo

INVESTMENTS in the various economic zones jumped 90 percent in the first nine months to P30.4 billion from P16 billion a year ago, the Philippine Economic Zone Authority reported yesterday.

For September alone, automotive-related projects made up the bulk of investments commitment amounting to P1.06 billion.

The Peza said projects approved last month were expected to generate a yearly average of $176 million in export receipts. The projects would also create some 1,800 jobs for directly hired workers.

The biggest investment approved last month in terms of project cost was Temic Automotive (Philippines) Inc.'s P340.9-million facility for the manufacture of seat memory and car body electronics.

The German firm's project will be located at the Food Terminal Inc. ecozone and is expected to yield $45.4 million in receipts each year.

Another P330.7-million project, which the proponent asked to be kept confidential, was the second biggest project approved last month. It is expected to earn $80.8 million a year.

Ford Motor Co. Philippines Inc.'s P64.1-million revision of its existing project to include the assembly of knocked-down kits at the Greenfield Automative Park ecozone was also approved by the Peza in September.

Ford Motor expects to earn $29.3 million a year from its exports to Vietnam and other Southeast Asian countries.

Philippine Nita Washing Technologies Inc. also got the Peza's nod for its P56.3-million project for the washing of textiles and garments at the Calamba Premiere International Park ecozone. The Japanese firm sees earnings of $1 million a year from its customers in Europe, the United States and Asia.

Juntec Corp.'s P49.7-million expansion of its manufacturing of metal components for copiers, car audio and navigation equipment as well as related electronic parts at the Laguna International Industrial Park ecozone was also approved by the Peza last month.

The Japanese firm expects to generate $4.3 million in annual export receipts from its markets in the United States, Japan, China and Mexico.

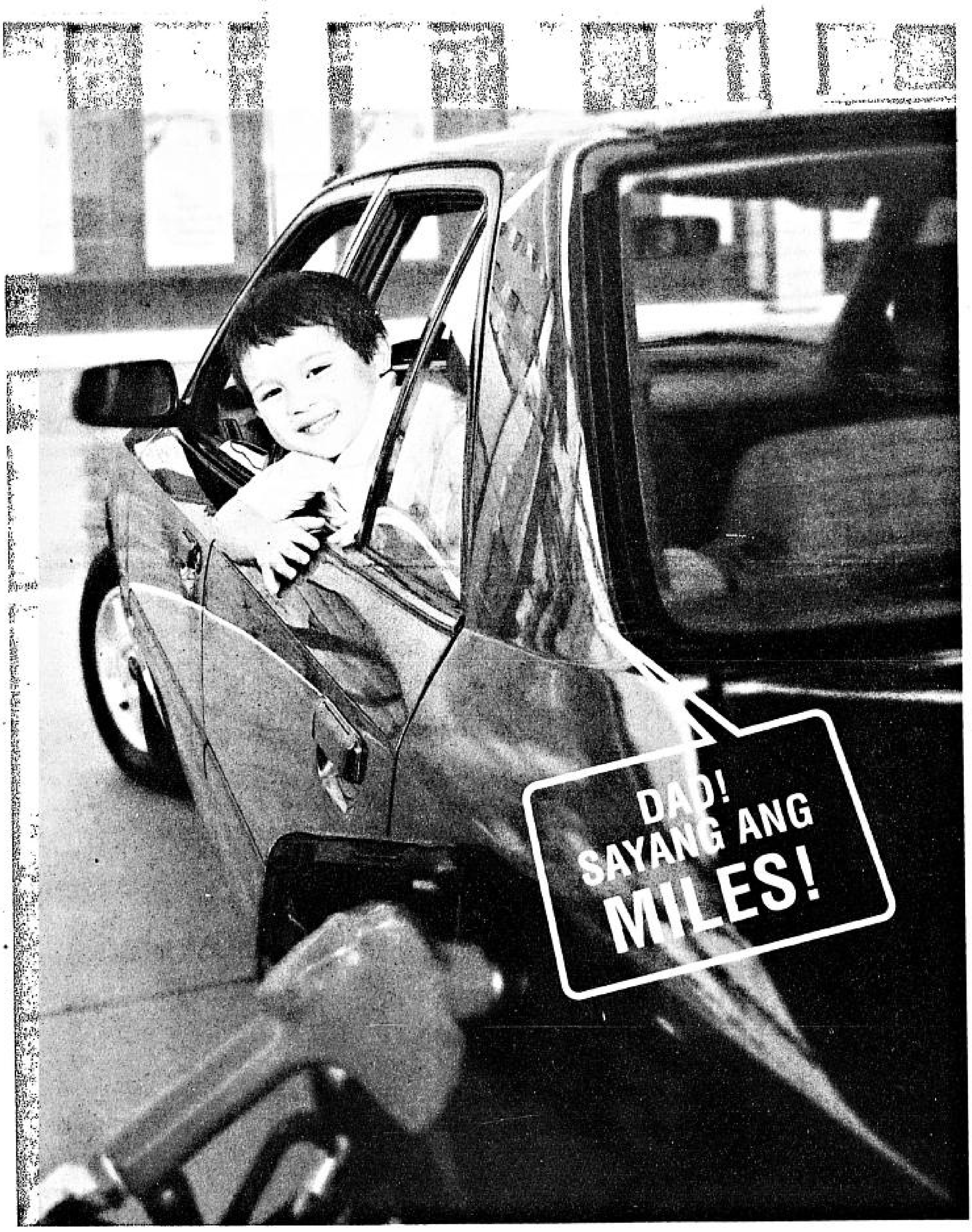
The Peza also approved Philippine Techno Realty Inc.'s P45-million project to lease existing buildings to Peza-registered businesses at the First Cavite Industrial Estate ecozone.

Stocks near 54-month high

SHARES closed sharply higher yesterday, with the main index registering its best finish in nearly 54 months on a combination of technical factors and favorable fundamentals, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended up 25.68 points, or 1.5 percent, at 1,787.25, its highest close since April 10, 2000, when it finished at 1,796.66. Gainers led decliners 57 to 18,

STOCKS/ B2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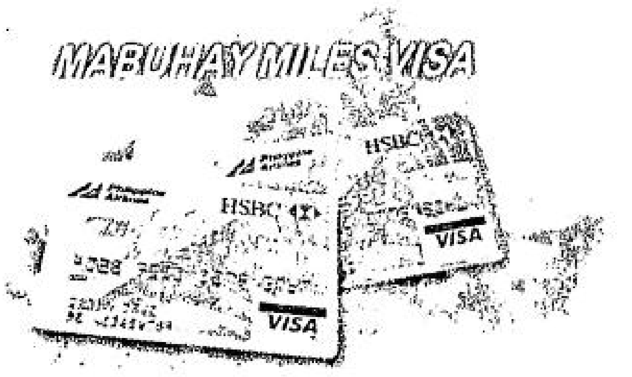

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4488, Series of 2004.

ed by The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 1, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	10,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.5	18	17.25	18	251,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	45.5	46	45.5	46	473,000
China Banking Corp.	530	530	530	530	1,810
Citystate Savings Bank	16.25	16.25	16.25	16.25	1,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	42.5	44	42.5	44	88,300
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.43	0.44	0.41	0.44	1,210,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	28	28	27.5	28	104,900
Philippine National Bank	22.75	22.75	22.25	22.5	16,200
Phil. Savings Bank	27	27.5	27	27.5	12,200
Security Bank Corp.	20.5	21.25	20.5	21	62,100
Union Bank of the Phil.	24	24	24	24	99,800
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	167	167	167	167	50
Manulife Financial Corp.	2410	2410	2410	2410	50
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	172,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	114	114	112	112	1,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1650	1675	1650	1675	6,580
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	21.25	22.25	21.25	22	61,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.9	0.96	0.88	0.96	50,290,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1095	1120	1095	1120	93,650
Ipeople Inc.	1.7	1.74	1.7	1.74	250,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	700,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.42	2.44	2.42	2.44	41,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.75	2.8	2.7	2.75	8,617,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1395	1420	1395	1420	50,340
Ivantage Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	1,630,000
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	20,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	15.25	16	15.25	16	46,200
Manila Electric Co. B	24	25.5	24	24.75	1,514,800
Petron Corp.	2.85	2.95	2.85	2.95	1,002,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.1	1.12	1.1	1.12	340,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	5	5	5	5	440,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	720,000
Sanitary Wares Mfg. Corp.	0.14	0.2	0.14	0.2	50,000
Union Cement Corp.	2.46	2.48	2.46	2.48	3,143,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3	3	2.95	3	26,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	29	29	29	29	10,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	26.5	27	26.5	26.5	208,800
RFM Corp.	0.72	0.75	0.72	0.75	210,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	1,360,000
San Miguel Corp. A	57.5	57.5	57.5	57.5	47,600
San Miguel Corp. B	71	71	70.5	70.5	70,400
Universal Robina Corp.	9	9.1	9	9.1	70,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.3	570,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0044	0.0046	0.0042	0.0046	76,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.0048	0.0048	0.0046	0.0046	13,000,000
Ayala Corp.	6.3	6.5	6.2	6.4	10,823,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.3	3.35	3.3	3.35	3,175,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	200,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	21,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.74	1.76	1.74	1.76	50,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	10,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	1	1	1	1	1,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	15	15.5	15	15.5	2,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.56	0.59	0.56	0.58	18,580,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	10,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.135	0.145	0.135	0.14	3,580,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	1,080,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.24	2.32	2.24	2.28	15,656,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1	1	1	1	20,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	26.5	27.5	26.5	27	499,200
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	10,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	400,000
House Of Investments Inc.	0.65	0.7	0.65	0.69	400,000
Ionics Inc.	1.94	1.96	1.94	1.94	446,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.48	1.52	1.48	1.52	121,000
Medco Holdings	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	6,230,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.24	1.26	1.24	1.26	1,331,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	20,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.23	0.24	0.23	0.24	50,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.56	0.57	0.55	0.57	78,480,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.15	0.155	0.15	0.155	10,500,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	600,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.82	0.88	0.82	0.88	360,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.16	0.165	0.16	0.165	1,720,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.2	0.21	630,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.72	1.72	1.72	1.72	320,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	200,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	10,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.68	0.68	0.67	0.68	5,150,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	40,000
Manila Jockey Club	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	1,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.35	0.36	0.35	0.35	1,150,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
Abs-Cbn Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	21.5	22.75	21.5	22.5	411,700
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	10,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.3	6.7	6.3	6.7	24,799,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1,000,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.4	0.45	0.4	0.45	30,640,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	90,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.35	16,190,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.14	1.18	1.12	1.18	17,619,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.21	0.215	0.21	0.215	200,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.43	0.44	0.43	0.43	370,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.98	1.98	1.98	1.98	15,000
SM Development Corp.	0.99	1.02	0.98	1	161,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.4	6.6	6.4	6.6	26,949,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.18	0.18	0.14	0.14	50,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	20,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0065	0.0065	0.006	0.006	24,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	3	3	2.95	3	208,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.22	0.225	0.22	0.22	9,500,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.27	0.3	0.27	0.29	4,250,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.014	0.016	0.014	0.016	264,800,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.017	0.019	0.017	0.018	337,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.006	0.0065	0.006	0.0065	887,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.027	0.027	0.026	0.027	1,700,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	2,740,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	570,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.13	0.15	0.13	0.15	480,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.011	2,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	1,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.2	0.21	0.2	0.21	50,000
Pacifica	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	2,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	101,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.032	0.033	0.032	0.033	8,000,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.18	0.19	0.18	0.19	440,000

CURRENCIES

October 1, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.803923	1.000000	56.2760
Japan	Yen	0.007309	0.009092	0.5117
United Kingdom	Pound	1.47030	1.812400	101.9946
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.103095	0.128240	7.2168
Switzerland	Franc	0.645462	0.802890	45.1834
Canada	Dollar	0.637377	0.792833	44.6175
Singapore	Dollar	0.477389	0.593824	33.4180
Australia	Dollar	0.581710	0.723589	40.7027
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.132536	2.652661	149.2812
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.214374	0.266660	15.0066
Brunei	Dollar	0.475976	0.592066	33.3191
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000088	0.000109	0.0061
Thailand	Baht	0.019423	0.024160	1.3596
UAE	Dirham	0.218879	0.272264	15.3219
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.243900	70.0017
Argentina	Peso	0.269999	0.335852	18.9004
Brazil	Real	0.281486	0.350140	19.7045
Denmark	Kroner	0.134370	0.167143	9.4061
India	Rupee	0.017526	0.021801	1.2269
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.211564	0.263165	14.8099
Mexico	New Peso	0.070659	0.087893	4.9463
New Zealand	Dollar	0.542824	0.675219	37.9986
Norway	Kroner	0.119805	0.149025	8.3865
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013596	0.016912	0.9517
South Africa	Rand	0.124183	0.154471	8.6930
Korea	Won	0.000699	0.000869	0.0489
Sweden	Kroner	0.110482	0.137429	7.7340
Syria	Pound	0.015549	0.019342	1.0885
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023666	0.029438	1.6567
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000420	0.000522	0.0294

SMC's 8-month profit up 28% at ₱4.76B

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

FOOD and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. (SMC) expanded its net profit by 28 percent to P4.76 billion from January to August, boosted by higher beer volumes and lower costs for its soft drink group, the Coca-Cola Beverage Group.

Consolidated net earnings in the same period last year was P3.72 billion, the company said in its disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Consolidated operating income rose 35 percent to P10.1 billion. Consolidated revenues climbed 12 percent to P107.9 billion as of August. Corporate volumes from January to August were also 6 percent higher.

Local beer sales volume for the eight-month period surged 16 percent from last year. Sales revenues from domestic beer operations were also up 20 percent to P23.4 billion. Operating profit also jumped 25 percent to P4.71 billion.

SMC said the benefits of improved distribution, right product portfolio and the influx of new drinkers in the market resulted in these gains.

For international beer operations, sales volume grew 13 percent for the first eight months. No figure was specified. Year-to-date sales revenues for international beer operations climbed 14 percent to $166.3 million from $145.3 million during the same period last year.

SMC had said it was spending close to P5 billion to expand its food facilities starting this year.

A new PureFoods Hormel meat plant in Cavite will be operating by the third quarter to process bacon and ham, among other processed meats.

In Batangas, a flour mill and a flour-blending facility have also been completed and commercial operations are expected to start soon.

The company's expansion and modernization program in the food sector is part of the larger program to invest an estimated P15 billion in the domestic market over the next three years.

Stocks near . . .

From page B1

while 42 stocks were unchanged.

The index rose 1.1 percent on Thursday.

SM Prime was the most active stock, closing up 4.8 percent at P6.60. Before the market opened, the country's largest mall operator said it had raised $150 million via a syndicated term loan facility to be used for expansion. SM Prime said its first such facility was oversubscribed, indicating the company secured favorable terms.

PLDT rose 1.8 percent to P1,420 after the country's largest telecommunications group said yesterday its cellular subscriber base has exceeded 17 million.

PLDT rival Globe Telecom gained 2.8 percent to a record high P1,120 on expectations that its cellular subscriber base is also growing at a healthy pace, given PLDT's performance.

Early in the session, the market managed to push past the 1,763.30, the 53-month closing high set last Friday, and the rally persisted.

"The (positive) trend is still intact," said DA Market Securities President Nestor Aguila. "In terms of fundamentals, all the negative news has been discounted by the market, including the high oil prices."

The market's upside was capped in past sessions by concerns over the impact high oil prices will have on the economy and corporate earnings. *AP*

DISCLOSURES

ELECTED directors of **Nextstage Inc.** were Orlando Vea, David Fernando, Rafael Morales, Cesar Buenaventura, Vicente Ruaro, Jose Benjamin Fernandez, John Butterworth, Edmundo Soriano and Angelo Mendoza.

***

BENPRES Holdings Corp. confirmed that the Quezon City Regional Trial Court, Branch 90 approved the petition for corporate rehabilitation filed by Maynilad Water Services Inc.

***

THE BOARD of directors of **Banco de Oro Universal Bank** approved the issuance of up to 25 million redeemable preferred shares series B with par value of P10.00 per share.

***

ABOITIZ Transport System Corp.'s board of directors fixed Oct. 25 as the payment date of more or less P393,246,555 or 25 percent stock dividend declared by the board on Oct. 23 and ratified by the stockholders last Dec. 18, 2003.

***

ASIATRUST Bank's board of directors approved the appointments of Edwin Yan as corporate secretary, Prima David as officer in charge of the comptrollership group and Elmer Villegas as corporate information officer.

***

RAMON Rivera Jr., first vice president of **Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.** disposed 2,000 of his shares at P1,270 per share on Aug. 20. ***Compiled by Ray Leyesa, PDI Research***

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WOODMACH PHILIPPINES 2004
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Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME) Manila Chapter
OCTOBER 7, 2004 - Thursday
1:30 pm - 5:00 pm ___ Cross-Cultural Skills in the Global Workplace by the Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME) Manila Chapter
COURSE OUTLINE:
- [illegible]
- [illegible]
- [illegible]
Presented By: [illegible]
Participation Fees: ___ [illegible]
Inquiries and reservation ___ [illegible]

SEMINAR ROOM A (Free Seminars)
Manufacturing Technology World (MTW)
OCTOBER 8, 2004 - Friday
11:00 am - 11:45 am ___ [illegible]
1:00 pm - 2:45 pm ___ Safety in Welding and Cutting ___ CONSOLIDATED INDUSTRIAL GASES, INC.
3:00 pm - 5:45 pm ___ The Money Making ABC's of Quick Print Business ___ [illegible]
OCTOBER 9, 2004 - Saturday
1:00 pm - 1:45 pm ___ [illegible] ___ [illegible] - POWER
2:00 pm - 2:45 pm ___ [illegible] ___ KAISER COMPRESSOREN
3:00 pm - 3:45 pm ___ [illegible] ___ [illegible] - POWER
4:00 pm - 5:45 pm ___ [illegible] ___ [illegible]
OCTOBER 10, 2004 - Sunday
1:00 pm - 1:45 pm ___ [illegible] ___ [illegible] - POWER
2:00 pm - 4:45 pm ___ The Money Making ABC's of Quick Print Business ___ [illegible]

SEMINAR ROOM F (with Fee)
OCTOBER 7, 2004 - Thursday
[illegible]
OCTOBER 8, 2004 - Friday
1:00 pm - 6:00 pm ___ [illegible]
OCTOBER 8, 2004 - Friday
1:00 pm - 3:15 pm ___ [illegible]
3:30 pm - 5:45 pm ___ [illegible]
OCTOBER 9, 2004 - Saturday
1:00 pm - 6:00 pm ___ Project Management on Factory Automated System - [illegible]
October 10, 2004 - Sunday
1:00 pm - 6:00 pm ___ Project Management Practices & Applications

[illegible]

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BSP: Liquidity up by 6.1% to ₱1.72T

By Doris C. Dumlao

PUBLIC sector borrowings continued to fuel the expansion in the country's net domestic credits, contributing to the growth of domestic liquidity.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday reported that domestic liquidity, or m3, grew by 6.1 percent year-on-year to P1.72 trillion as of end-August 2004, mainly due to the rise in the BSP's net foreign assets (NFA) and an improvement in net domestic credits.

"The growth in domestic credits was due mainly to increased credits to the public sector, which rose by 14.6 percent, as banks continued to purchase government securities," the BSP reported.

The public sector includes the national government as well as government-owned and-controlled corporations.

Credits to the private sector likewise grew stronger by 4.6 percent from the previous month's 4 percent rise.

The NFA of the monetary system rose by 9.3 percent in August due mainly to revaluation adjustments in the BSP's foreign currency-denominated assets as a result of the weaker peso.

The m3 growth in August, however, was a deceleration from the 6.7 percent increase of the previous month.

In seasonally adjusted terms, m3 grew by 0.1 percent month-on-month in August, slightly lower than the 0.9 percent monthly increase posted in July this year.

"The moderate though steady growth in domestic liquidity has been accompanied by improvements in domestic demand," the BSP said.

It cited, for instance, that average capacity utilization in July increased 79.7 percent as a percentage of total capacity in the manufacturing sector, up from the 78.7 percent utilization rate in July last year.

"Both exports and imports reflected improvements during the year, growing year-on-year by 3.2 percent and 5.6 percent, respectively, in July 2004 from the contraction in exports of 5.5 percent and slight 1.4 percent growth in imports in July 2003," the BSP said.

It added that employment data also improved during the third quarter, with the unemployment rate dropping to 11.7 percent from 12.6 percent during the same period of the previous year.

"In the months ahead, monetary authorities will continue to monitor developments in the real and monetary sectors to ensure that liquidity conditions remain consistent with price stability objective," the BSP said.

GMA 7 to launch own cable channel in US

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

GMA NETWORK Inc. in January is set to launch its own cable channel in the United States, according to network sources.

The television giant would offer Filipinos living on the US West Coast cable subscriptions to GMA 7 programs such as soap operas and entertainment shows.

But the plans have yet to be firmed up, sources said. If things were to go as planned, this would be the first time GMA 7 would hit foreign shores.

GMA recorded a net profit of P885 million in the first seven months of the year, up 25 percent from P707 million a year ago. This brings it nearer to its P1.5-billion goal for this year.

The company's revenue grew 17 percent to P4.3 billion from January to July. But operating expenses also increased by 20 percent to about P2 billion from P1.7 billion a year ago.

Felipe Gozon, GMA president, had said the company would push through with its initial public offering in the first quarter of 2005.

Gozon said the company would be naming an underwriter during the third quarter.

The company is planning to sell 30 percent of its shares to the public to raise as much as P9 billion.

PSALM sells 4th Napocor genco for $0.41M

By Abigail L. Ho

THE POWER Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) last Thursday sold for $410,410 the 400-kilowatt Cawayan hydroelectric plant in Bicol—one of 35 National Power Corp. generation plants on the auction block.

Sorsogon II Electric Cooperative (Soreco II) beat two other bidders for the plant—Chervin Enterprises and lawyer Ramon Constancio.

The first scheduled bidding for the Cawayan plant was declared a failure when all bids fell short of the government's floor price. Soreco II was also part of the roster of bidders for the asset during the first round of bidding.

"This successful bid should signal that government is pushing forward with its privatization program, even as it is looking for the best short- and long-term solutions to the energy and fiscal situation," said Vincent Perez, energy secretary and concurrent privatization, bids and awards committee head.

The Cawayan plant was the fourth Napocor generation asset PSALM was able to sell since the Joint Congressional Power Commission approved the genco groupings and the privatization schedule in December last year.

The three other plants the state firm had sold were hydroelectric in nature: the 3.5-megawatt (MW) Talomo plant in Davao, the 1.6-MW Agusan plant in Bukidnon and the 1.8-MW Barit plant in Camarines Sur.

The Aboitizes' Hydroelectric Development Corp. bagged the Talomo plant for $1.37 million in March, while the Lopezes' First Generation Holdings Inc. won the auction for the Agusan plant in June with a bid of $1.5 million.

Ramon Constancio posted the highest bid for the Barit plant at $480,000.

The 1.2-MW Loboc hydroelectric plant in Bohol is next to be auctioned off on Oct. 27.

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AUCTION SALE

MARA PAWNSHOP BR of 2230 M. Roxas St. Sta Ana Manila Auction Sale on Oct. 8, 2004 Wed. at 2:30 in the afternoon. Respectively. May 9 - June 8, 2004 SONS of J. LANUZA, Auctioneer
(PDI - October 2, 2004)

MARA PAWNSHOP
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of Makati City.
AUCTION SALE on Oct. 8, 2004, Wed. at 10:30, 11:00, 12:30, 1:30 and 8:30 in the morning and on the afternoon, respectively May 9 - June 8, 2004.
Sons of J. Lanuza, Auctioneer
(PDI - October 2, 2004)

Nuestra-Damus Pawnshop - Makati City Auction Sale on October 06, 2004 all unredeemed pledges during the month of May 1-31, 2004 Nuestra Br. II 9:30am; Nuestra Br. I 10:30am; Nuestra Br. IX - 3:00pm. Sons of J. Lanuza - Auctioneer.
(PDI-October 2, 2004)

NUESTRA-DIAJADE PAWNSHOP LAS PINAS METRO MANILA - Will have its auction sale on October 7, 2004 All unredeemed pledges during the month of May 1-31, 2004. Diajade Br. II-11:30am.- Sons of J. Lanuza Auctioneer.
(PDI - October 2, 2004)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late Sps. EMILIO NARTEA & ROSARIO HIDALGO NARTEA has been extrajudicially settled with sale among the heirs per Doc.#122 Page 25 Book XXI Series of 2004 before Notary Public Jose V. Marcelia of Pasig City
(PDI-Sept. 25, Oct.2&9,2004)

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Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION AND TO BID

The Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for the Pasig River Environmental Management and Rehabilitation Sector Development Program (PAREMAR). The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) as executing agency of the PAREMAR intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this loan to eligible payment under the contract for which this invitation for Application to Pre-qualify and to Bid is issued.

PRRC and the City of Pasig as the Implementing Agency of the contract are inviting CONTRACTORS to apply for pre-qualification and bid for the following contract package:

Contract Package	Area	Location	Contract Duration	Project Description	Major Scope of Works
Buting Linear Park Project (EPA-LPP-18)	673 sq.m.	Barangay Buting, Pasig City	90 calendar days	Community Park and Promenade	a. Demolition b. Hauling/Disposal of Refuse Materials c. Backfill and Compaction d. Concrete Works e. Site improvements f. Supply/Installation of Park Elements g. Softscape Elements h. Painting Works i Electrical Works j. Drainage and Plumbing Works

The criteria for Pre-qualification, Bid Evaluation, Award of Contract and Post-qualification shall be governed by the ADB Guidelines For Procurement of Civil Works and/or RA No. 9184.

The accomplished pre-qualification and bid documents shall be submitted to the **Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission**, 2/F, MWSS Eng'g Bldg., Old Balara, Quezon City, Tel. Nos.: 433-3444 and 433-3446, Fax No : 926 6449, E-mail: prrc@tri-isys.com in two (2) separate sealed envelopes containing three (3) copies each of the pre qualification and bid documents on or before **12:00 NN, October 29, 2004**. Congregation for Site inspection shall be at the office of Engr. Josenar F. Caparas, Housing and Homesite Regulatory Unit, 4F Pasig City Hall, Caruncho Avenue, Pasig City on **October 22, 2004** at 9:00 a.m. A Pre-Bid Conference shall be held on the same day at 11:00 a.m. at the Session Hall, 5F Pasig City Hall. The date of bid opening shall be announced later.

Interested contractors are required to submit a **Letter of Application** and secure a complete set of pre-qualification and bid documents from **October 4, 2004 to October 15, 2004** at the PRRC, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Twelve Thousand Pesos (Php 12,000.00)

The PRRC Inter-Agency Bid and Award Committee reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive minor informalities, or accept such bids which shall be the most advantageous to the Government. The decision of the PRRC Inter-Agency BAC shall be final and binding upon approval of the PRRC Board of Commissioners and ADB.

For further information, please contact the BAC Secretariat c/o Ms. Amelita V. Gamay at Tel. Nos. 433-3447 and 926-5234.

(Sgd.) BINGLE H.B. GUTIERREZ
Executive Director

(PDI - Oct 2 & 9, 2004)

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October 4, Monday - 31st flr. Discovery Center, (10am to 7pm)

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Kagawaran ng Ugnayang Panlabas
Department of Foreign Affairs

DEPARTMENT ORDER NO. 22-04

SUBJECT : Amendment to Department Order No. 07-00 (Revised Consolidated Schedule of Service Fees)

Department Order No. 07-00, dated 08 May 2000, which is the Revised Consolidated Schedule of Service Fees, does not cover appropriate visa fees for restricted nationals **applying for multiple-entry visas**, as listed in Foreign Service Circular No. 446-01, dated 14 December 2001.

In view thereof, Department Order No. 07-00 is hereby amended to include the following visa fees for restricted aliens:

9 (a) Temporary Visitor Visa for Restricted Aliens

Single Entry valid for three (3) months (prescribed under D.O. 07-00)	– US$ 40.00
Multiple Entry valid for six (6) months	**– US$ 80.00**
Multiple Entry valid for one (1) year	**– US$ 120.00**

This order amends Department Order No. 07-00 and shall be published once a week for two consecutive weeks in two newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines and shall become effective fifteen days after the last publication.

Pasay City, Sep. 16, 2004

(Sgd.) **ALBERTO G. ROMULO**
Secretary of Foreign Affairs

(PDI – October 2 & 9, 2004)

PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION

PNOC Bldg. I, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Telephone Nos.: 893-6001 to 47 local 2101-2104
Direct Line: 840-2024/Fax No.: (632) 840-1459

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION AND TO BID

PNOC Exploration Corporation (PNOC EC) invites interested contractors to apply for pre-qualification and submit sealed bids for the project:

Rehabilitation of Triangular Pier of PNOC EC Energy Supply Base in Mabini, Batangas (BX 04-577)

The Approved Budget for the Contract is Php 6,560,400.00 chargeable against PNOC EC funds.

The Contractor shall provide labor, materials, tools, equipment and supervision for the Rehabilitation of Triangular Pier.

Pre-qualification documents shall be available for issuance from the PNOC EC Operation Support Group (c/o Mr. Carlos L. Mejias or George N. Alejandro) starting September 27, 2004 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PESOS: Two Hundred (PhP200.00). Only contractors who can submit all the pre-qualification requirements on or before October 27, 2004 are eligible to purchase the bid documents.

Bid documents shall be available to eligible bidders starting October 28, 2004 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PHILIPPINE PESOS: One Thousand Five Hundred (Php1,500.00).

The bidding shall utilize a two (2) sealed envelope system. The first envelope shall contain the Technical Bid and the second envelope shall contain the Financial Bid. The Technical and Financial Bids shall be submitted in two (2) sets each at the above address on or before **3:00 P.M. of November 19, 2004** and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter. **Late bids shall not be accepted.**

For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a Pre-bid Conference will be held on **November 5, 2004, 2:00 P.M.** at the PNOC EC Energy Supply Base in Mabini, Batangas.

PNOC EC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any formality therein, or to accept such bids or to award any part thereof to any bidder/s whose bid/s is/are considered most advantageous to PNOC EC.

This publication is also posted in our website at www.pnoc-ec.com.ph and in the DBM website at www.procurementservices.net.

(Sgd.) Ernesto S. San Jose
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--Oct. 2, 2004)

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SSS Building, 6782 Ayala Avenue corner V. A. Rufino Street, Makati City
Tel. No. 841-4928; Fax No. 8414930; Website: www.pdic.gov.ph
E-mail: bacsecretariat@pdic.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC)** invites accredited general building contractors of the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) with minimum license Category of "B", Registration of "Medium A" or higher for road, highway pavement, railways, airport horizontal structures and bridges, pursuant to PCAB Circular No. 2004-01 dated July 30, 2004, and at least five (5) years experience as general engineering contractors to apply for eligibility and subsequently, to bid, for the engagement of a contractor for the backfilling of a property located at Aurora Boulevard corner J. P. Rizal Street, Barangay Marilag, Project 4, Cubao, Quezon City. The contract covers earthworks, backfilling, and civil works with an approved budget for the year 2004 of P35,578,759.00.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

Activities	Date/Time	Place
Issuance of Application Statement for Eligibility	October 4 – 15, 2004	9th Floor, PDIC Extension Office, SSS Building, Ayala Avenue corner Rufino Street, Makati City
Deadline for submission of eligibility envelopes, opening of the same shall follow immediately	Until 2:00 P.M. October 18, 2004	- same -
Notification and issuance of bidding documents to **eligible** bidders	October 18 – 21, 2004	- same -
Pre-bid Conference	2:00 P.M. October 22, 2004	Board Room, 7th Floor, PDIC Main Building, 2228 Pasong Tamo Street, Makati City
Opening of technical and financial envelopes	Until 2:00 P.M. November 4, 2004	9th Floor, PDIC Extension Office SSS Building, Ayala Avenue corner Rufino Street, Makati City

The Application Statement for Eligibility shall be made available from October 4 to 15, 2004 at the BAC Secretariat, 9th Floor, PDIC Extension Office, SSS Building, Ayala Avenue corner V. A. Rufino Street, Makati City upon submission of a copy of PCAB License and Registration, Letter of Intent and payment of a non-refundable amount of P300.00. Original copy of License and Registration must be presented for verification against submitted photocopy. Both PCAB License and Registration must be current before the eligibility screening, after opening of bids, and during the entire duration of the contract.

The eligibility screening of bidders, evaluation of bids and awarding of contract shall be governed by Republic Act 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

PDIC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part thereof, to waive any informality or minor defect, and to accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

PDIC shall in no case be held responsible or liable for any and all costs associated with the bidder's participation in the bidding process regardless of its results.

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

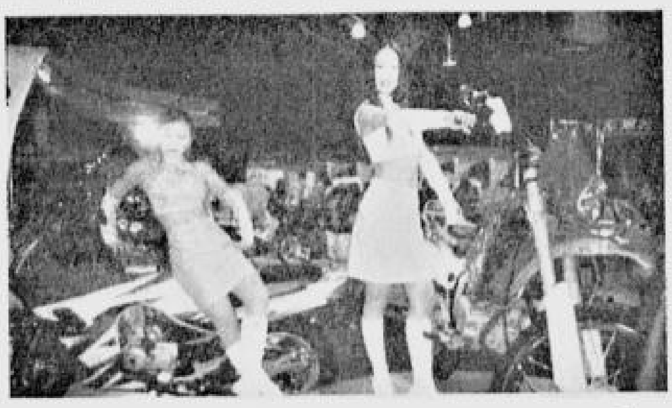
(PDI–October 2, 2004)

A FUN JOURNEY BACK TO STELLA MARRIS COLLEGE

It's been too long but the '70s still command a strong reason to cheer and reunite for those wild times. This is exactly what the alumnae (some members of which are shown above) of Stella Maris College will do in their grand Silver Jubilee homecoming today, October 2, at the school grounds. The affair will come with all night retro dancing, 70s exhibit, fashion show, and performances by show bands. All Stellans are invited to attend the event. For details call 6715334, c/o Sophie de los Santos or Judith Arenas

Faith culture lives on

ARCHBISHOP Gaudencio Rosales, D.D. and Bishop Luis Antonio Tagle are main celebrant/homilist and lecturer respectively in the simultaneous anniversary celebrations of the Asian Social Institute (ASI) and the Center for Small Entrepreneurs (CSE) on Oct. 2, 2004 at the Folk Arts Theatre, CCP Complex, Manila. The whole day celebration will feature the Francis Senden Memorial Lecture to be given by His Excellency, Most Reverend Luis Antonio Tagle, DD, STD on "Healing Our Faith Life." After the lecture, a sharing of analogous experiences of solidarity from the different sectors will follow. This event will culminate with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist by Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales, DD, as the main celebrant, during which symbolic offerings will be given by representatives of schools, colleges, universities, organized communities, NGOs, business community, local government units, labor groups, corporations and other sectors of their pledge of commitment to and implementation of Pondo ng Pinoy. Participants are requested to bring their *baon* for lunch and merienda that could be shared with representatives from organized marginalized communities who are the beneficiaries of the Pondo ng Pinoy project. Interested parties, may pre-register at the Asian Social Institute or the Center for Small Entrepreneurs at (02) 526-5590, 525-6268, 524-1879 mobile 0916-303-7443, 0916-302-4977 email address: e_magnata@yahoo.com or cse@pacific.net.ph or visit Asian Social Institute building, 1518 Leon Guinto corner Escoda Streets, Malate.



2004 CHINA CHONGQING TRADE SHOW IN MANILA

The 2004 China Chongqing Trade Expo Philippines opens on Sept. 29 until Oct. 1, at the World Trade Center organized by the Chongqing Heaven Best International Business Exhibitions and Trade Co, Ltd and by Premier Events Plus Group Inc. The expo's theme "Business Opportunities in Foreign Trade" with a trade objective to foster closer economic ties between China and the Philippines through a showcase of the various business opportunities available in the Province of Chongqing. Being the largest vehicle and motorcycle base in China, the China Chongqing Trade Expo 2004 will feature the motorcycle, electric bikes, automotive, engine and spare parts industry. However, other industries also featured are food, textile, fabrics, electronics, generators, pumps, agricultural machinery, car accessories, women's accessories and many others. Interested parties can call Premier Events Plus group, Inc. at 9297993 or 63, 4364209, 4269603, 9208136 or email at info@PEPGroup.com.

EARNING PUBLIC GOODWILL

Firms to build model mining towns

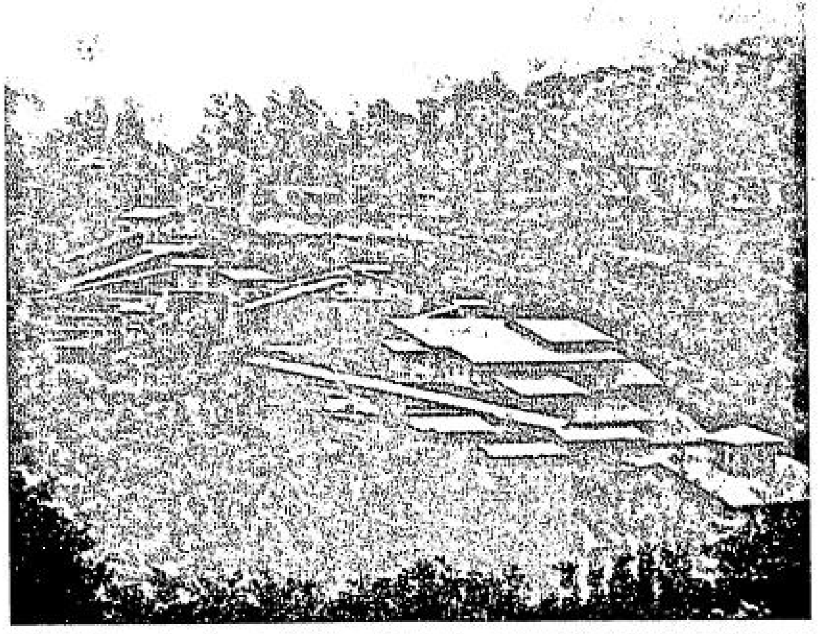
By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Companies are coming together to build modern mining communities, ones that would hopefully redeem the mistakes of the past.

This according to the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which linked up with the Chamber of Mines to draw up detailed social and fiscal schemes for future mining towns.

But these will not be the usual mining towns, according to PCCI president Noemi Saludo.

Learning from the fate of the country's older mining communities, PCCI will provide future mine towns a working economy that would allow these to survive the entry and exit of huge mining operations.



MINING firms have invested billions of pesos in social projects, such as reforestry.

Public hostility

Benjamin Philip Romualdez, Chamber of Mines president, said public hostility to the mining industry could be traced back to the sins of the original mines.

Although mining firms invested highly in the development of most mining towns, host communities and provinces rarely felt them because the national government absorbed most of these through taxes that were rarely plowed back to the provinces, Romualdez said.

A PCCI case study also revealed that various mining communities have ended up relying completely on these mining companies, Saludo said.

"Once the mines closed, the firms got the blame for the deterioration of their former host towns," she said.

The pervading hostility compelled the government to freeze mine development projects that could be viable within the next two years, Romualdez said.

He said the Arroyo administration would need the projects' P2-billion capital now lying idle.

Saludo said the country's largest business organizations wanted to reduce this hostility by shouldering the cost of training and expanding small and medium scale enterprises in towns targeted for mining development.

"Communities that get excise taxes from the mines, or a share from their national taxes, must now be trained to use this for high-value opportunities," Romualdez said.

He said the PCCI and the mining sector would help secure funding for small and medium enterprises in these towns.

Good faith

Saludo said this would guarantee "good faith" for business.

That had always been in short supply since the American colonial government helped install American overseers over local mining projects, said the militant Cordillera Peoples Alliance, a mining industry critic in Northern Luzon.

Joan Carling, CPA chair, said environmental activists must be allowed to study these modern mining towns because the government's deficit has compelled local governments to seek alternative economic sources.

"To them, even to officials who are environmental stalwarts, the mines are becoming very attractive because they need revenues to offset the possible loss of their internal revenue allotments," Carling said.

FEATURE

Romualdez, who is also president of Benguet Corp., the country's oldest mining company, said the industry might confront renewed militancy due to deficit pressures, which would reduce infrastructure spending.

But he said the industry could not ignore its history lessons, which detail how inept government bureaucracy ended up trivializing all of the mining firms' contribution to local development since 1903.

Mining contributions

Itogon town in Benguet, which hosted Benguet Corp. for 101 years and Philex Mining Corp. for 46 years, now ranks among the country's first class towns, but the province remained part of the 20 poorest provinces until 2003, according to the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB).

At its peak between 1977 and 1996, Benguet had contributed P25 billion in taxes, duties and community expenditures, based on data supplied by the firm for the government's National Minerals Policy.

The firm's annual average expenditures reach P962.2 million, Benguet documents showed.

Redempta Baluda, Philex vice president and environment manager, placed her company's investments at P8.9 billion since 1958.

Philex' 2003 annual report notes that the firm was taxed P144 million, when it earned $59 million in exports.

Mankayan town, also in Benguet, retains its fourth class ranking despite the presence of the 66-year-old Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. (LCMC), which has contributed P3.307 billion in taxes since 1947, based on corporate tax records.

Had taxes been paid directly to host towns, Romualdez said the industry's public image could have been better.

This "love-hate relationship" now dictates the future of the oldest Philippine mines.

Future relationship

Tuba Councilor Val Carantes said most town officials continue to block Philex's exploration and expansion program in their town until it pays a P3-million environmental fine.

Philex is winding up its Benguet operations.

LCMC is also encountering difficulties in expanding its Teresa ore property due to the complaints from Mankayan villagers.

There can be no debate about the mines' historical role at building most of the local towns in Benguet, said Romualdez.

He said Benguet Corp. helped finance the construction of schools in the early 1900s when American missionaries began introducing English, Science and Mathematics to the indigenous Filipinos in the Cordillera.

"But the mines were affected by the system. When the government decided to absorb all of the taxes in the 1970s, we started to lose our standing in parts of the community where government's presence was not being felt," he said.

LOCAL government units are turning to mining proje

The country's older mines responded by increasing their contributions to local programs.

Social investments

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau pegged the overall social investments of Benguet, Philex and LCMC at P68.77 billion.

These investments include the firms' expenses for raising and sustaining watershed forest areas to protect towns against the mining operations.

But its net effect was far from satisfactory, Romualdez said.

A mining official from another firm pointed out that they spent a third of their investments building roads and bridges for a local government that refused to part with its purse.

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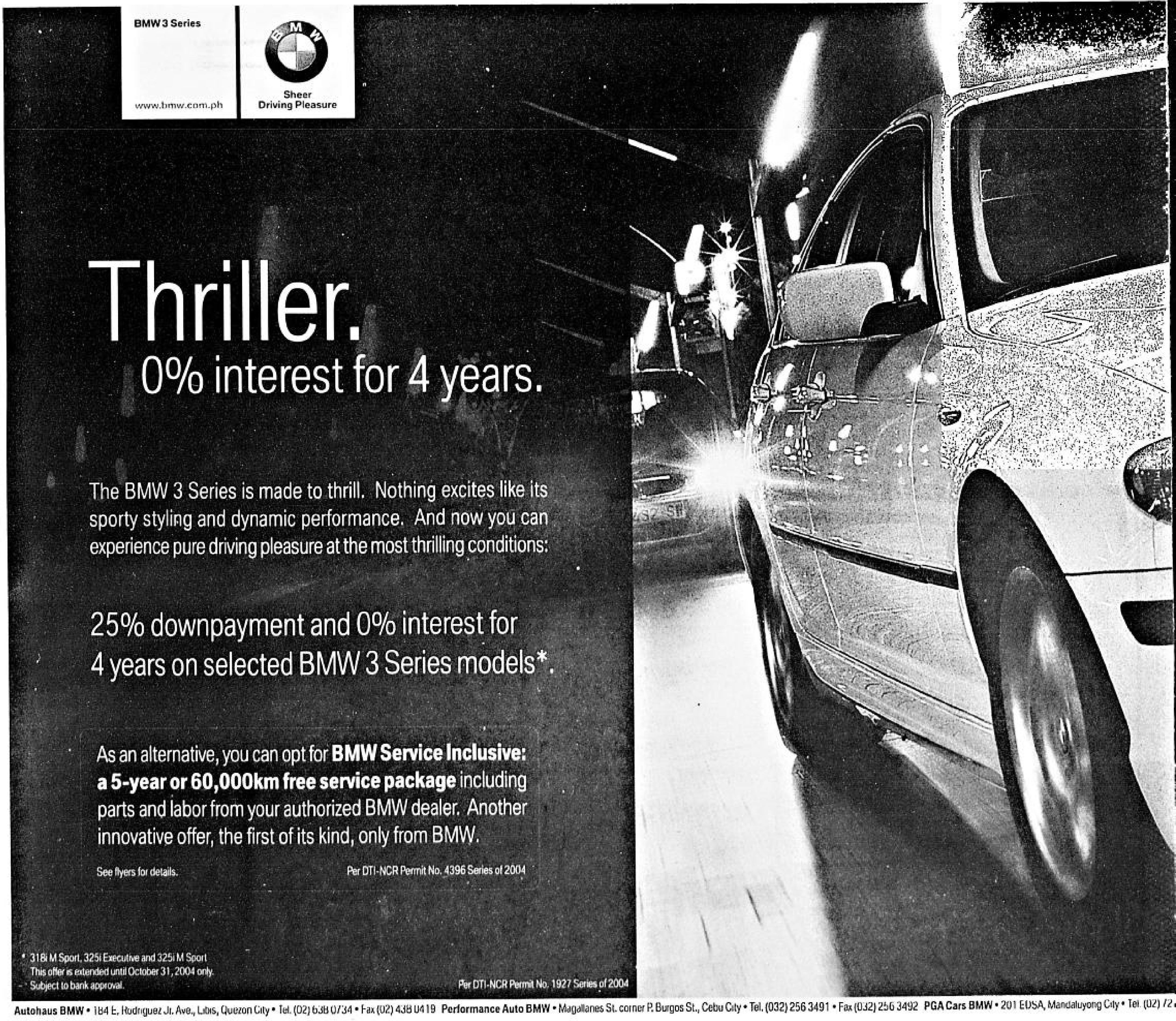

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Europeans urge opening of Naia 3

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE $657-MILLION Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 can start operation within six months, that is, if government will allow it, according to the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines.

ECCP executive vice president Henry J. Schumacher said in an interview that it would take three months to prepare the facility and another three months to train people to operate it.

Schumacher said project contractor Takenaka Corp. of Japan had invited businessmen and airline executives in the past few weeks to tour the facility and see for themselves that it was in top shape.

Schumacher said that with the deterioration of Naia Terminal 1, the need for Terminal 3 was obvious.

Schumacher, a German, said most companies from his country that are already doing business here have plans of expansion due to growing markets.

Some of these firms are engaged in electronics, chemicals, garments, health care and industrial services.

He said a legal resolution of the Terminal 3 issue would be a positive signal to European firms that investing in the Philippines would be a good step to take.

The Airport Terminal 3 has been the subject of litigation since the Supreme Court ruled in May 2003 that all five contracts related to the Naia project were void. The high tribunal said the contracts were against public policy and violative of the Build-Operate-Transfer law.

The high court also decided that the government should take over the project.

Because of this, Fraport AG—the German airport operator contracted for the Terminal 3 concession—reportedly wrote off some $312 million it invested in the project.

Also, Fraport had sought arbitration with the International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes. The company had accused the government of various "unlawful acts," including its failure to pay compensation for the expropriation of the airport terminal.

"If the (Philippine) government decides that the (Terminal 3 issue) issue must be solved legally.... then it would have to appoint a political negotiator to help find a solution," Schumacher said. "Surely there are solutions."

Oil firms scramble for FCDUs to meet rising import bills

By Doris C. Dumlao

OIL COMPANIES scrambled for more foreign currency deposit unit (FCDU) loans in the second quarter of this year to meet rising import bills amid skyrocketing global crude prices.

But in availing of the FCDU loans, the oil firms, who earned mostly in pesos, had exposed themselves to greater foreign exchange risks, underscoring the need for them to hedge, analysts said.

Oil companies had obtained $511 million from Philippine banks' FCDU system in the second quarter of the year, more than double the first quarter availment of $243 million, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported yesterday.

The report noted that the availments made oil companies the biggest beneficiaries of fresh FCDU loan releases in the second quarter, accounting for 42 percent of total disbursements.

The doubling of FCDU loan availments by oil firms during the period came with the surge in the country's oil import bill due to rising oil prices in the world market.

A foreign exchange trader estimated that the monthly dollar requirement for oil importation was now about $400 million from only $250 million a year ago.

As global oil prices hugged the $50 per barrel level, analysts are worried about the dire consequences on Asian economies that do not have large domestic oil supplies but whose industries are heavy energy users.

"Their import bill is rising and the peso is depreciating, so I would think these oil companies are hedging," said Astro del Castillo, managing director and fund manager of First Grade Holdings.

Del Castillo said hedging against volatility in crude prices could be done either through certain financial instruments or with the way they purchase the crude oil, as the companies could resort to forward contracts with offshore suppliers to peg the price of their future purchases.

To facilitate hedging against foreign exchange risks, the BSP has an existing currency risk protection program (CRPP) facility, a non-deliverable forward contract between itself and the commercial bank with the foreign exchange obligations of bank clients as the underlying transaction. The facility aims to relieve the pressure on the spot market created by market players wanting to frontload their future foreign currency requirements and by borrowers such as oil firms wanting to cover foreign currency obligations.

Meanwhile, the BSP report noted that new FCDU loan releases amounted to $1.21 billion during the April-June period, almost twice the $607 million disbursements in the first quarter.

"About 57 percent of these disbursements came from local commercial banks and the balance from foreign bank branches/subsidiaries operating in the country," the BSP said.

This brought the total outstanding FCDU loans granted by commercial banks and thrift banks in the country to $4.8 billion as of end-June, up by $150 million or 3 percent from the first quarter, but down by 2 percent from a year ago.

Resident borrowers continued to account for 98 percent of the outstanding FCDU loan portfolio, with public utility firms and commodity/service exports each having a 21-percent share.

Private borrowers continued to account for almost two-thirds of the outstanding credits.

In terms of maturity, medium and long-term loans (MLT)—or those with payment terms of one year and above—comprised 71 percent of total. MLT credits comprised 55 percent and 98 percent of the total private and public sector credits, respectively.

Unionbank raises $125M through bond float

THE ABOITIZ group's banking arm Union Bank of the Philippines raised $125 million from its three-year global bond offering.

This was the first time the bank tapped the offshore capital market since the 1997 currency turmoil.

In a press briefing yesterday, Unionbank president Victor Valdepenas said the bid was much higher than the target size, but the bank decided to cap the issuance at $125 million.

"That week, the ROP (Republic of the Philippines) also went to the market with a $1 billion offering," Valdepenas said.

Unionbank's bonds were priced at 99.669 percent or 445 basis points over the comparative US Treasuries with a 7.25 percent coupon rate. Credit Suisse, First Boston and UBS Investment Bank acted as joint arranger and bookrunner for the issuance.

Valdepenas said the proceeds from the offering were made available to the bank last Friday.

The proceeds shall be used to upgrade the bank's IT (information technology) infrastructure and boost its lending through credit cards as well as to small and medium enterprises, the bank chief said.

Valdepenas said Unionbank planned to roll out a much better IT platform with customized electronic banking facilities for specific customers. He expected the bank to spend P100 million each year over the next five years for the IT project.

Also, bank officials are planning to expand their credit card business, which now has a customer base of 160,000, Valdepenas said.

"Our credit card base grows by 4,000 to 7,000 a month," he said. "Three years ago, our subscribers were less than 20,000."

Valdepenas said the bank also planned to grow its SME lending portfolio to P1 billion this year.

The bank has so far devoted P750 million of its portfolio to this sector.

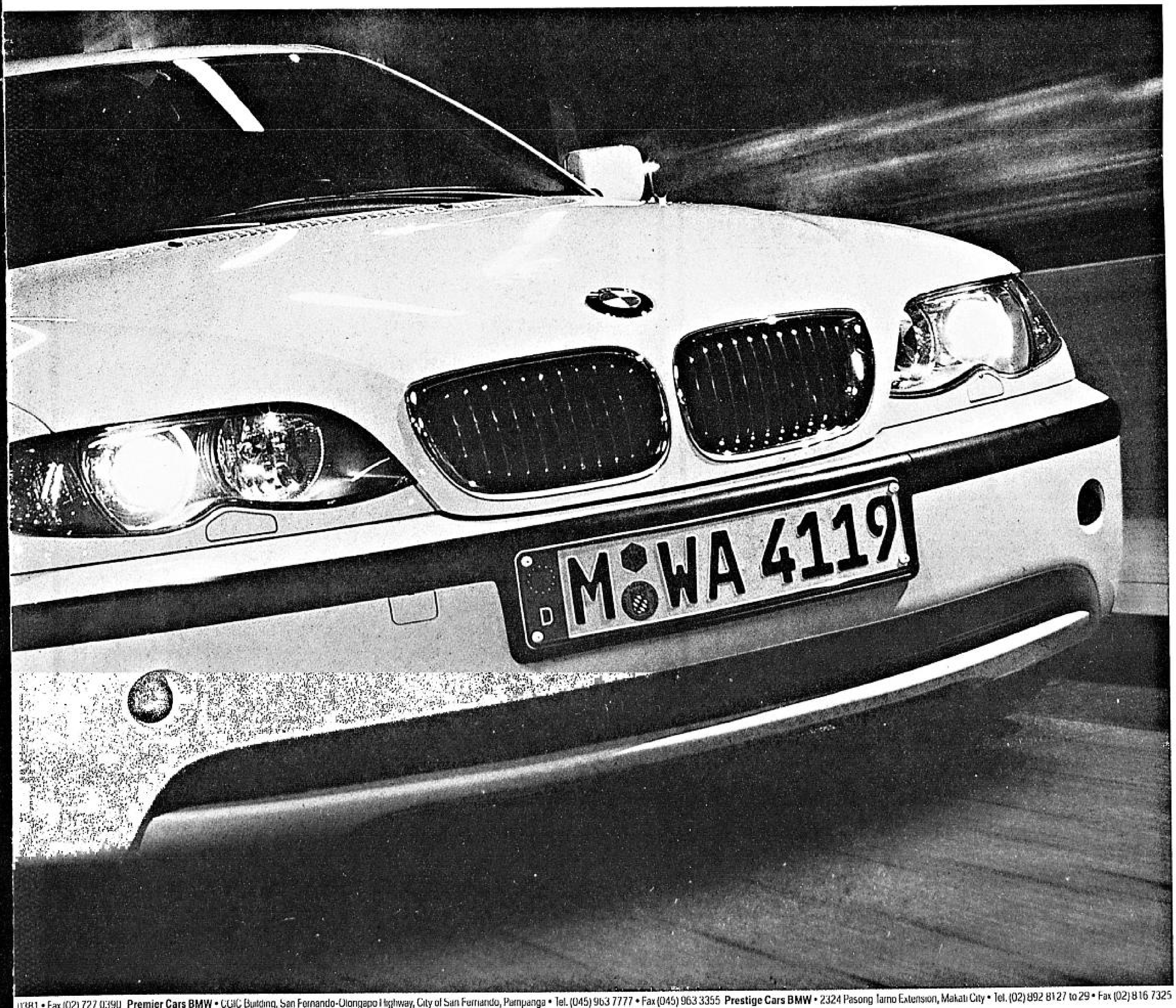
Aside from the Philippine government, Unionbank was the first Philippine entity that braved the global bond market after Malacañang announced that the country was in the midst of a fiscal crisis.

International credit rating firm Moody's Investors Service assigned a Ba2 rating to the bank's senior unsecured debt issue. This rating indicates substantial credit risk, particularly as a result of adverse economic change over time. But business or financial alternatives may be available to allow financial commitments to be met.

Established in 1982 as a result of a merger between Union Savings and Mortgage Bank, and Bancom Development Corp., Union Bank is currently the 13th largest indigenous bank in the Philippines.

The bank reported consolidated assets of P76.7 billion ($1.4 billion) as of June 30, 2004.

Doris C. Dumlao



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INVITATION FOR NEGOTIATED OFFER

The Development Bank of the Philippines will entertain offers on a First-Come, First-Served basis at the Asset Management Department, 2nd Floor, DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City for the following properties:

CODE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM SELLING PRICE
REAL ESTATE			
MANILA			
BAC-10	Lot 2247-A-9, Interior Maytubig St., San Rafael District, Pasay City	405.40 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-143002) w/ 2-storey bldg.	P 7,702,600.00
BAC-11	Lot 2247-A-10, Interior Maytubig St., San Rafael District, Pasay City	398.30 m² vacant residential lot (TCT No. T-143001)	P 7,567,700.00
BAC-12	Lot 2247-A-8, Interior Maytubig St., San Rafael District, Pasay City	327.20 m² vacant residential lot (TCT No. T-143000)	P 6,216,800.00
CWB-7	L-26 B N-6, No. 19 Road 7, Pagasa, Quezon City	240 m² residential/commercial lot (TCT No. N-209559) w/ 3-storey res'l/factory/office bldg.	P 6,187,500.00
AM-PY-243a	No. 6 Balete Drive, Quezon City	2-units, 2-storey condominium units (CCT Nos. N-24864 & N-24865), 130 m² each (BCA-G & H)	P 2,512,000.00
AM-MC-244	57 Faustino St., Lawang Bato (Punturin), Valenzuela City	150 m² residential lot (TCT No. V-59978) w/ shop factory bldgs. & 2-units candle moulding machines	P 374,100.00
BATANGAS			
AM-JA-245	D. Silang St., Batangas City	159 m² commercial lot (TCT No. T-53084)	P 3,180,000.00
BULACAN			
AM-PY-246	Bgy. Matang Tubig, Baliuag	3 parcels of lots (TCT Nos. T-162317, 162318 & 162319), total area of 21,533 m² w/ 3-breeder houses)	P12,170,800.00
AM-CP-247	Bgy. Lambakin, San Miguel	40,000 m² agricultural lot (TCT No. T-138507) w/ 10-poultry/ warehouse/office bldgs.	P 6,268,160.00
AM-CP-248	No. 78 Dr. Teofilo Santiago St., Poblacion, Sta. Maria	250 m² residential/semi-commercial lot (TCT No. T-18584 M) w/ 3-storey bldg.	P 2,459,590.00
AM-CP-249	No. 287 Kaybitin Extension Road, Bgy. San Gabriel, Sta. Maria	373 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-385268) w/ bldg.	P 415,400.00
LAGUNA			
AM-CP-250	L-20 B-5, Villa Consolacion (Conpil Village IV), Bgy. San Vicente, San Pedro	79 m² residential lot (TCT No. 536560) w/ bldg.	P 407,400.00
AM-PY-251	L-11 B-1, St. Joseph Village 5, Bgy. Butong, Cabuyao	52 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-545608) w/ bldg.	P 226,400.00
AM-MC-252	L-30 B-6, St. Ruiz Street, St. Joseph Village 6, Phase I, Butong, Cabuyao	40 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-562050) w/ bldg.	P 203,500.00
NUEVA ECIJA			
AM-PY-253	Vista Amor Subd., Bgy. Bangad, Cabanatuan City	100 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-114462) w/ bldg.	P 379,900.00
QUEZON			
AM-CP-254	Cor. XIII de Agosto St. (Nadera) & Calle Perpetua, Bgy. Mationa, Tayabas	9 parcels of lots (TCT Nos. T-416789 to T-416797) total area of 2,257 m²	P 5,421,600.00
RIZAL			
SUR-01	605 6th St., San Martin Subd., Bo. Muzon, Angono	240 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-5187151) w/ bldg.	P 872,600.00
MAS-JTG-001	L-31 B-14, Montano Drive, Palos Verdes, Garden Heights Subd., Bo. Seven Hills, Antipolo City	300 m² vacant residential lot (TCT No. 301965)	P 760,000.00
CHATTELS (sale on "as-is, where-is" basis)			
AM-ED-255	Kabilang Gulod, Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro	M/V "Super 85", 85-footer motorized passenger ferry vessel, 185-persons cap.	P12,750,000.00
AM-JA-256	Bgy. Natividad, Pangil, Laguna	1-lot bottled water equipment (alkali-ion/electrolytic water)	P11,340,800.00
AM-JA-257	Bgy. Banao, Guinobatan, Albay	1-lot coconut oil processing equipment	P10,854,000.00
AM-MC-258	National Highway, Matingain II, Lemery, Batangas	1-set ice plant machinery & eqpt., 33-35 tons block ice cap.	P 3,149,700.00
CWB-7a-f	No. 19 Road 7, Pagasa, Quezon City	1-lot consisting of pneumatic high speed overarm router/radial arm saw/air compressor/hand jointer planer/pneumatic nailer/pneumatic stapler	P 245,500.00

Forms for negotiated offers may be obtained from AMD-Acquired Assets.
For inquiries, please call telephone numbers: 892-1566/893-7172 or 818-9511 local 2218/2252 for Code starting with AM; 926-1686 for CWB; 892-3836 or 818-9511 local 2227/2229 for MAS; 818-9511 local 1457 for BAC and 1486 for SUR.

ASSET MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

(PDI – October 2, 2004)

PUBLIC ESTATES AUTHORITY

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CITY OF MAKATI, METRO MANILA
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• 817-5017 • 817-5018 • 817-5014 • 813-1441/46
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2004

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BLK		LOT	AREA[1] (M²)	MODE
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A2	2	interior	2,568	SALE
A2	3	interior	2,611	SALE
A2	4	interior	2,573	SALE
A2	5	corner	3,321	SALE
A3	1	corner	2,500	SALE
A3	2	interior	2,222	SALE
B4		portion	5,825	SALE OR LEASE
B7		portion	4,648	SALE OR LEASE
B5		portion	18,348	SALE OR LEASE

[1] Subject to final survey

2. Qualified bidders:

Sale : Any Filipino citizen, of legal age; any government owned or controlled corporations and any government financial institution or any public corporation, which have complied with the requirements established by PEA for this bidding.

Lease : Any Filipino citizen, of legal age; any partnership, association or corporation, public or private of which at least 60% of the capital stock or of any interest in said capital stock belongs wholly to citizens of the Philippines and which is organized and constituted under the laws of the Philippines.

3. Interested qualified parties may obtain the Terms of Reference and Bid Documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P5,000.00) in cash or Manager's/ Cashier's Check starting 28 September to 27 October, 2004 from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the Marketing Department, 7th Floor Legaspi Towers 200, Paseo de Roxas, Makati MM.
4. The first pre-bid conference is scheduled on 21 October 2004 at 10:00 AM at the PEA Conference Room.
5. Required pre-qualification documents and duly accomplished Bid Documents prescribed in the Terms of Reference shall be submitted to the PEA Real Estates Bids and Awards Committee (PREBAC) on 4 November 2004 on or before 10:00 AM. Public opening of bids shall follow at 10:30 AM of the same day.
6. For further information, inquiries may be made to the Marketing Department in the above address at telephone numbers 817-4711 to 13 (trunk line) and 813-7103 to 7104 (direct lines).

(Sgd.) TEODORICO C. TAGUINOD
General Manager/CEO

(PDI – Sept. 27 & Oct. 2, 7, 13, 18 & 25, 2004)

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NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of **PACIFIC GLOBAL OUTSOURCE SOLUTIONS, INC.** with address at **Room 601, PDI Condominium, Archbishop Reyes Ave., Banilad, Cebu City** for registration with the Board of Investments under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as Amended as **New.ICT Export Service Firm in the Field of Medical Transcription** at a capacity of **15,700,000 Lines** and with proposed plant site at **(same as in above address)** has been officially accepted on **28 September 2004** and is currently being processed.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/ her objection in writing and under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

Issued this 28th day of September 2004

(Sgd.) RUDY B. CAÑA
OIC-Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI–Oct. 2, 2004)

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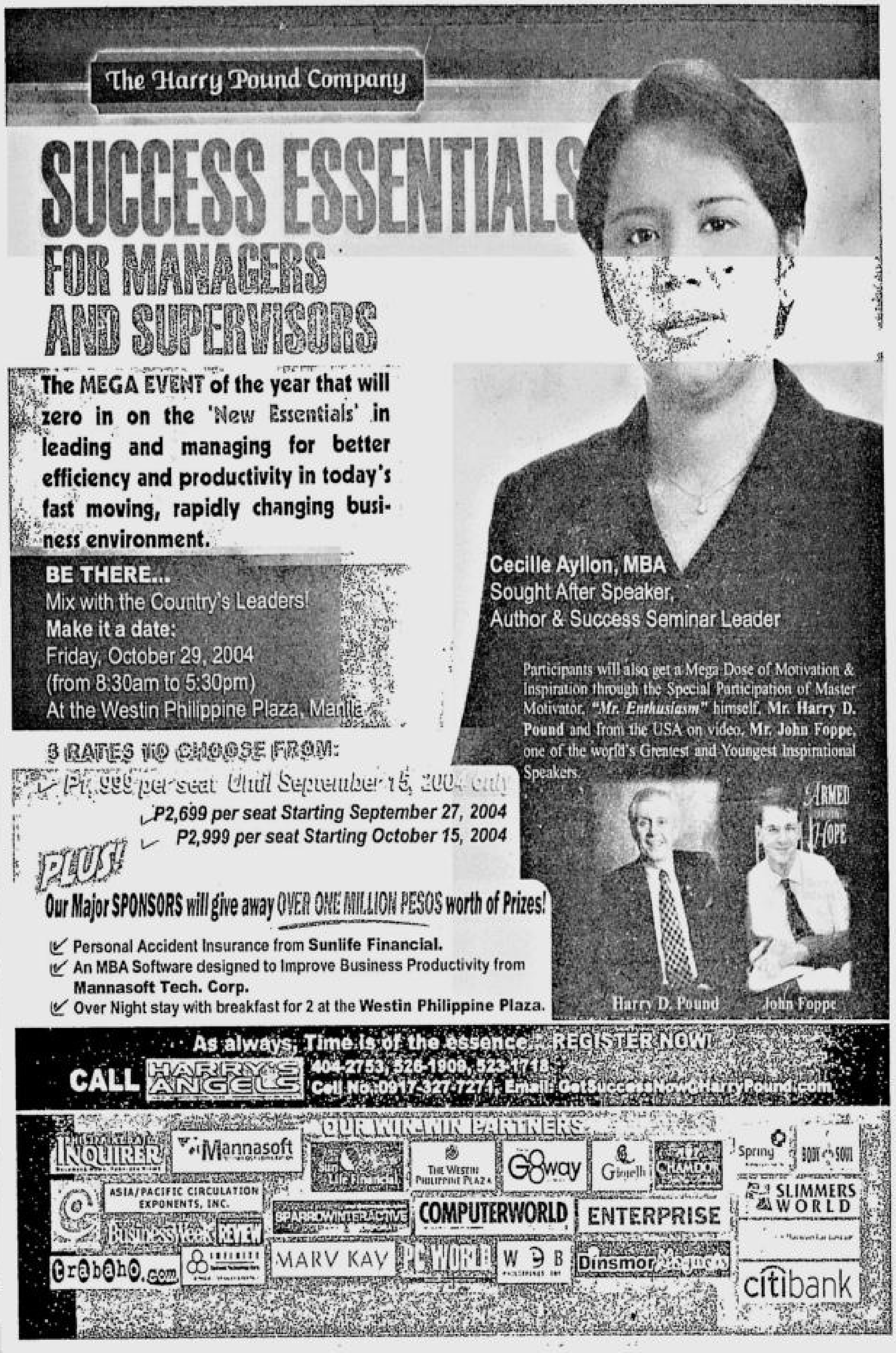

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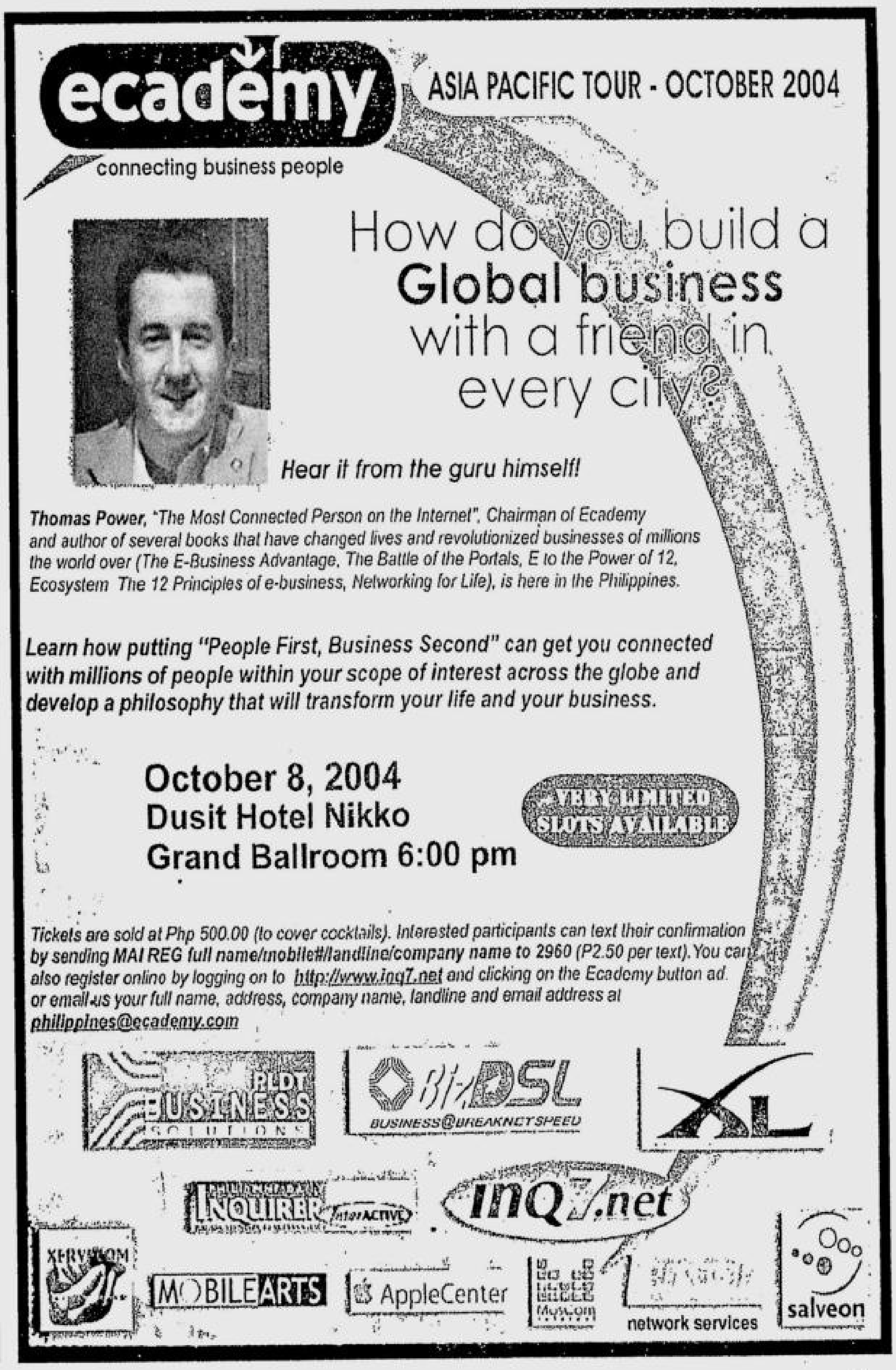

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THIRD DEATH ANNIVERSARY

SATURNINA ZARATE Vda. de UYTIEPO

October 2, 2004

Masses will be celebrated at:

San Sebastian Church	6:00 a.m.
St. Jude Church	6:30 a.m.
San Miguel Pro Cathedral	7:00 a.m.
Sta. Cruz Church	5:00 p.m.

Relatives and friends are requested to attend mass at any of the above churches and to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

I am the way,
the truth
and the life.
No one comes
to the Father
except through
Me.
John 14:6

In Loving Memory

On the
Fifth Death Anniversary of

CONRADO C. CAIMOL

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord on October 2, 1999.

Holy Masses will be offered today, October 2, 2004 at the following churches:

Sanctuario de San Jose *(East Greenhills, Mandaluyong)*	6:15 AM
Mary The Queen Church *(West Greenhills, San Juan)*	6:00 PM
Immaculate Concepcion Church *(Damar Village, Quezon City)*	6:15 AM
St. Claire Catholic Church *(Roseville, California, USA)*	5:00 PM
St. Patrick Church *(San Francisco, California, USA)*	7:00 AM

"*But I have trusted in your mercy; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation*"
Psalm 13:5

FELICIDAD "ISING" CABRERA MUNGCAL

of Guagua, Pampanga

April 10, 1924 – September 25, 2004

*Peacefully joined her loving husband, **GREGORIO** and caring son, **PEY**, in the company of the Lord on September 26, 2004 in Miami, Florida, USA.*

Her bereaved children **BOY** and **Menchu**, **ALEX** and **Belen**, **WINSTON** and **Precy**, **JUN** and **Connie**, **GERLIE**, **DULCE** and **Jeremy Lacson** and **RUBY**; grandchildren **Michael**, **Carissa**, **Faith**, **Angelic**, **Jeng**, **Analyn**, **PJ**, **Pia**, **Eggy**, **May**, **Justine** and **Jason**; and relatives request our friends and readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains will be flown from Miami on 05 October 2004 and will lie in state at their residence in Maquiapo, Guagua, Pampanga.

Interment will be on Saturday, 09 October 2004 at the Maquiapo Catholic Cemetery after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

Orlando Natividad Alcantara

of San Pablo City and Merville Park, Parañaque City

Peacefully joined our Lord on October 1, 2004 at the age of 78.

His bereaved wife **Gloria**; children **George** and Cecile Lopez, **Grace** and Tinggoy Lim; grandchildren **Lemon**, **Mia**, **Orange**, **Ina**, **JM**, **Sabrina** and **Carla** request you to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Premiere 2 Loyola Memorial Chapels in Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City.

Cremation will follow after the 7:00 a.m. Holy Mass on Monday, October 4, 2004.

Our Dearly Beloved

CARMEN M. COLLANTES

Peacefully joined the Lord on September 29, 2004 at St. Luke's Medical Hospital.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel Q of Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on Sunday, October 03, 2004 after the 9:00 a.m. mass at Loyola Memorial Park, Parañaque.

The Family is requesting for your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS • FREE OBIT

ROBERTO I. TORRES

of Vergonville, Las Piñas and Nasugbu, Batangas

Peacefully joined the Lord on September 30, 2004 at the age of 58.

His wife **Herminia D. Torres** and sons **Paul John**, **Joseph Oliver**, and **George Matthew**, daughter-in-law **Jacquelyn** and granddaughter **Betinna Althea**, brothers, sisters, other relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Premiere Chapel of Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

Interment will be at Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City on Wednesday, October 06, 2004 after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

CLASSIFIEDS

Jerry Liao's
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Jerry Liao has been in the I.T. industry for the past 22 years as an I.T. and media practitioner. A certified Microsoft Office specialist, he has interviewed I.T. luminaries like Microsoft CEO Bill Gates, Sun CEO Scott McNealy, and Intel CEO Craig Barrett, among others.

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KEY TOPICS

LEARNING PHOTOSHOP CS AND ITS APPLICATIONS
October 27, 2004, 9:30am-4:30pm

FUNDAMENTALS OF EFFECTIVE PUBLICATIONS DESIGN
October 28, 2004, 9:30am-12:30nn

OPTIMIZING PHOTOSHOP AND ILLUSTRATOR AS IMAGING TOOLS
October 28, 2004, 1:30-4:30pm

MAKING YOUR WEBSITES INTERACTIVE USING MULTIMEDIA TOOLS
October 29, 2004, 9:30am-4:30pm

LEARNING INDESIGN CS AND ITS APPLICATIONS
October 30, 2004, 9:30am-4:30pm

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Editor Cesar D. Mangawang
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Expert calls for more studies on coco oil's anti-AIDS benefits

By Jerry E. Esplanada

THE 1999 LOCAL study that showed virgin coconut oil (VCO) could reduce, if not totally wipe out, the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) needs a follow-up study to validate its results.

Dr. Conrado Dayrit, the man behind what is now called the "miracle oil," says the 1999 study was "just the beginning of an exhaustive work." He says the follow-up study should involve at least 200 HIV-positive patients, if possible up to 300 patients.

Dayrit is looking for young researchers to do the study because at 85, he says, he is already "too old" to take part in it.

14 HIV-positive patients

The initial study had involved 14 HIV-positive patients of the San Lazaro Hospital in Sta. Cruz, Manila. The research took six months and was conducted by Dayrit's group and medical staff of the state-run facility.

The study showed that the coconut chemical lauric acid could inhibit, delay and reduce the spread of HIV.

Dayrit says the viral loads of research subjects went down, while their CD4 cells—the human body's first lines of defense against infection—went up.

He presented his group's findings during the 37th Cocotech meeting in Chennai, India in 2000.

Similar presentations followed here and abroad, and his findings have become a fixture in many VCO websites.

More concrete conclusions

The P5-million research was funded by the nongovernment Philippine Coconut Research and Development Foundation (PCRDF) where Dayrit was then a trustee.

PCRDF technical supervisor Romulo Conde had described the test results as "promising," but was also quoted as having cautioned for a need for "more concrete conclusions...to...satisfy the world scientific community."

Dr. Roderick Poblete, head of the Philippine National AIDS Council (PNAC) secretariat, shares Conde's views.

PNAC is the lead agency in the country's fight against the killer disease.

Poblete says a study with a much bigger scope would "erase any doubts on the results of the initial tests."

Dayrit says VCO has become very popular among HIV-positive locals.

In the absence of a cure for HIV/AIDS, he says, "many patients have resorted to alternative medicines like coconut oil. Apparently dissatisfied with what their doctors had been giving them, they gave coconut oil a try."

The Philippine HIV/AIDS Research Agenda, a joint report of the National Economic Development Authority and the United Nations Development Program, noted that VCO was "developed using sound scientific research methods."

"VCO is not only affordable and readily available but also culturally acceptable," the report said.

'Better late than never'

Dayrit's obsession with coconut oil seems to be paying off. For one, he is getting a lot of attention from the local medical community.

"More doctors are acknowledging VCO's antiviral effects as well as its many other health benefits," says Dayrit.

"Better late than never," he says, sounding really happy.

Nowadays, he receives many invitations to speak in hospitals.

Dayrit did his first lecture on VCO in 1983, 40 years after he started teaching pharmacology at the University of the Philippines College of Medicine.

Wanted: funds

Dayrit says the expanded study on the antiretroviral properties of VCO would cost several millions more compared to the initial one. And getting funding is the biggest obstacle they have to hurdle.

Dayrit says that while his son, Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit, is "fully behind me and my cause, his hands are tied."

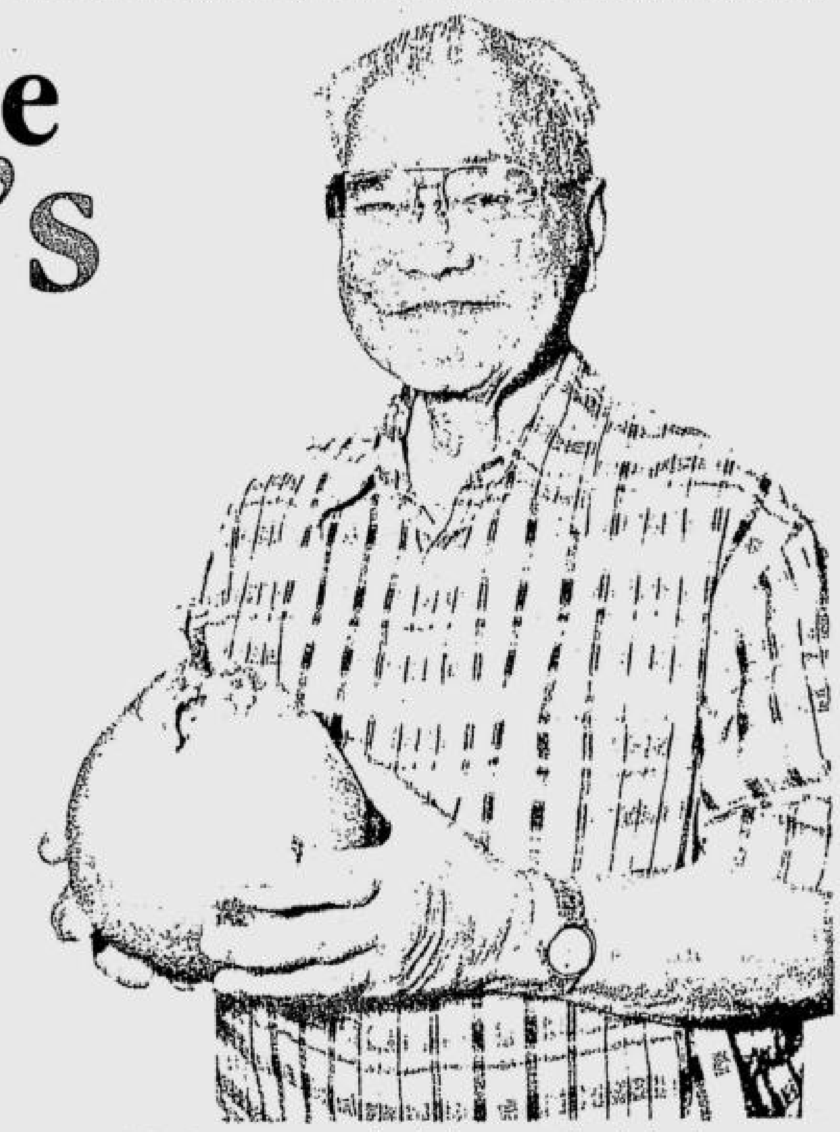
He says the DOH, with its annual budget of P92.8 billion, has limited funds which have been earmarked for various health programs, and not a single centavo of this was allocated for research.

Neither could the Department of Science and Technology, with a budget of P2.21 billion, bankroll his proposed project, Dayrit says.

The DOST-attached National Academy of Science and Technology, which Dayrit headed for nine consecutive years, is not a funding agency. He says its budget of P16 million a year is used mainly to cover honorariums of national scientists and academicians.

A DOH official had suggested tapping the controversial coconut levy fund, estimated at P140 billion.

Dayrit is thinking if cash cows like the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) could provide the funds.



DR. Conrado Dayrit wants to prove that virgin coconut oil really does have beneficial effects on HIV-positive patients.

RUDY ESPERAS

Nonaddictive opiates

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

IN LAURIE King's "A Monstrous Regiment of Women," Mary Russell is kidnapped and constantly injected with heroin until she craves for the drug. When she is rescued from captivity by Sherlock Holmes several days later, he is surprised how quickly she has become addicted to the drug. She explains that while in the hospital several years earlier, she was given heroin as a painkiller because her doctors believed that, unlike opium, the drug was nonaddictive.

Heroin and morphine are addictive painkillers that men have been deriving from the poppy plant in the past two centuries, although opium was extracted from poppies much earlier. Today, poppies are legally grown only in certain parts of the world to meet the needs of pharmaceutical companies for these opiates, or painkillers.

As Laurie King shows in her novel (and no, I won't give away the ending), long-term use of opiates alters the neurons in the brain so that addicts crave the pleasurable rush the drug brings and feel ill if they don't get their regular dosage.

Altering plant genes

To prevent further misuse of opiates, researchers have long been working on ways to make poppy plants nonaddictive.

Five years ago, researchers at the Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (Cimap) in India announced they had altered the genes of certain poppy seeds so the plants would retain their nutritional properties but not the narcotic effects of the drugs produced from them. The work appeared in the October 1999 issue of the journal Plant Breeding.

Cimap also planned to alter another variety of poppies to produce plants that retain their medicinal properties but not their addictive effects. There is no word yet on the progress of their efforts.

One of the places where poppies are legally grown is Tasmania, which supplies nearly half of the world's needs.

Tasmanian Alkaloids is an Australian company that works with poppy farmers in the area. In the late 1990s, researchers at the company began testing a new variety of poppy which did not make heroin, codeine or morphine. Instead, these poppies only produced the chemical precursors to those addictive drugs—the compounds thebaine and oripavine, which are what pharmaceutical companies use to develop painkillers.

Norman

In the Sept. 23 issue of the journal Nature, researchers led by Philip Larkin of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO) describe a new poppy variety they named top1, or "thebaine oripavine poppy 1."

Australian poppy farmers call it Norman, which is short for "no morphine."

The researchers said the top1 poppy was nonaddictive, or as they wrote in their paper, "a crop that carried little risk of diversion for illicit purposes."

By slightly altering the DNA of the poppy plant, the biochemical pathways that lead to the production of morphine and codeine (heroin is a derivative of codeine) are blocked after thebaine and oripavine are synthesized.

As pharmaceutical companies have long had to convert the morphine back to thebaine for their purposes, it is clear why this poppy variety would benefit everyone.

High yield

In an interview with Reuters, Larkin said the new poppy variety could produce thebaine and oripavine at a very high yield. These two alkaloids are preferred starting points for the subsequent manufacture of a new generation of powerful analgesics.

He said they were using this knowledge to produce other designer changes in poppies "to serve human pharmaceutical needs better."

Larkin et al.'s long-term goal: to develop a poppy variety that produces solely thebaine.

Larkin and his colleagues have not yet identified the genes associated with the top1 mutation. During their studies, they noted that 10 genes were underexpressed in the top1 plants as opposed to the wild poppy variety.

The opium dens in London that Sherlock Holmes knew are no longer there, but there are many cocaine and heroin addicts with us today. Will the next century find us in a world where addictions to these drugs are a thing of the past?

Holmes used to say that he couldn't formulate a theory without data; in short, time will tell.

E-mail the author at massie@massie.com.

Young Filipino mathematicians win in international contests

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

Most of the time, the Philippine team manages to win 2nd and 3rd honors

LAST July, the first batch of Mathematics Trainers Guild (MTG) delegates went to Hong Kong for the 8th Po Leung Kok Primary Math World Competition (PMWC), pitting their skills against 40 teams from all over the world.

In the individual competition, Paul Julian Hao (Chiang Kai Shek College) and John Bernard Ong (Grace Christian High School) took second honors, while Carlo Francisco Adajar (Southridge School) and Stephanie Anne Oliveros (De La Salle Zobel) took third honors.

In the team competition, Team Luzon and Team Visayas received merit awards. Members of Team Luzon were Ezra Joy Templonuevo (Jesus Is Lord Colleges Foundation in Bulacan), Angeline Baniqued (St. Paul's College in Pasig), Gilian Uy (Grace Christian High School) and Jillian Kristel Sy (St. Stephen's High School). Team Visayas was composed of John Bernard Ong, Jose Enrico Leceta, Tobit Narciso and Vance Uy (the last two from St. Jude Catholic School).

Incidentally, Leceta took home a gold medallion from the Asia Pacific Primary Math Competition in Singapore last May, and Vance Uy did the same two years ago.

Exceeding expectations

Last month, a second delegation came back from the 2nd Elementary Math Inter-city Competition (Emic) in Lucknow, India, with two golds, seven silvers and 13 bronzes in the individual competition, and four silvers and two bronzes in the team contest.

According to Carlo Brian Nerecena, a former participant and now coach, "their performance exceeded expectations, and was a dramatic improvement over what was already considered a surprising performance last year in Thailand."

The competition had 36 teams and 144 participants from 10 countries: Bulgaria, Indonesia, Iran, Taiwan, Thailand, Pakistan, South Africa, Vietnam, India and the Philippines.

The best news is that the 2005 Emic will be held here in the Philippines, the second time we will play host to an international math fest. In 2001, Tagaytay played host to the contest.

Training young talents

The MTG, founded by Simon Chua, is an organization of dedicated educators who train our talented youth for international competition. Since 1996 it has been sending delegations to elementary and high school competitions abroad, mostly in the Asia-Pacific region.

In competitions such as the PMWC, around half of the competitors would be receiving honors, with first, second, and third honors divided into a ratio close to 1:2:3. Most of the time, the Philippine team manages to come home with second and third honors. Only twice did a Filipino receive first honors: Nerecena (Ateneo Grade School, now in the Ateneo de Manila University) in 1998 and Kristina Lim (then of St. Joseph's Academy of Iloilo) in 1999.

So far, Kristina is the only Filipino to achieve a perfect score in the individual competition, and I am proud to say she is now studying at the Ateneo.

What contest is like

In the PMWC, 15 problems are given in the individual problem-solving contest. Awards are based on percentiles and on the difficulty of the questions.

According to Nerecena, this year's contest was "pretty hard."

"A score as low as 8 out of 15 already merited third honors, whereas last year the cutoff for third honors was 13. This year, 13 was enough for first honors and 11 for second."

In the team competition, eight questions are divided among four members, and they must solve the problem in 49 minutes. Two more questions are given to each group afterward.

The teams are divided into divisions with scores compared among them. Awards go to the top three teams, and merit awards to the next two in each division.

After surveying our performance this year, Nerecena reflects that "other countries have developed similar nationwide training programs just like the MTG, and they are slowly gaining on us, if they have not already overtaken us. This goes for countries like Indonesia and Thailand whom we were fond of beating some years back. All these make for a higher level of competition and I just hope we can keep up."

Next week we feature questions from the 2004 PMWC and the 2003 Thailand Emic.

KIDS' QUIZ

ANSWERS to last week's quiz: 1-b (or f), 2-f (or b), 3-e (or j), 4-a, 5-h, 6-c, 7-i, 8-d, 9-e (or j)

Winner: Erika Marie Isidro

You can claim your prize at the Marketing Dept., PDI Building, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City and look for Ms Chris Vida (Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.).

Bird flu could trigger next pandemic

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

MEDICAL FILES

THE BIRD flu virus is back and it may have mutated into a more vicious type of bug with a different mode of transmission. Asian health authorities are on alert after a Thai mother and her 11-year-old daughter, as well as a 13-year-old boy from another family, all died of bird flu-like symptoms recently. The aunt who took care of the girl was also treated for severe atypical pneumonia.

The virus has so far killed 30 people this year and more than 100 million chickens and birds died or were culled.

If the lethal H5N1 strain of the bird flu virus mutates into a highly contagious form, World Health Organization officials fear this could trigger the next pandemic. A mutated bird flu outbreak was blamed for the deaths of 40 million people worldwide in 1918.

Human transmission

What makes these recent reports alarming is the fact that the virus might have been transmitted between humans. The mother and the girl's aunt might have contracted bird flu directly from the girl who might have gotten it from their infected chickens.

Thai officials, however, sought to downplay the public's fears, saying that initial tests on the aunt showed no evidence of the bird flu virus. On Tuesday, they said evidence indicated that the lethal H5N1 strain had not changed and that human-to-human transmission, if at all, had been limited to one family and a single village in northern Thailand.

Laboratory tests are currently being done on samples from the victims and these are expected to be completed any time now. We hope Thai health officials would be transparent about the findings so other countries could take the necessary precautions. We hate to have a replay of the SARS epidemic which was allegedly kept under wraps by Chinese health officials until it exploded into an uncontrollable epidemic.

Mutating viruses

What causes a virus to mutate? Viruses usually contain protein blocks (amino acids) and any change in these can drastically change the virus' structure, which can make them resistant to conventional drugs and can alter their modes of transmission.

The inappropriate use of some medications can trigger adaptation processes in some viruses that can subsequently convert them into monster bugs.

Since what we have is still predominantly a bird-to-man transmission, everyone should be advised on how to prevent its spread from its main source. Chicken or bird droppings are still the main culprit, so chicken growers and those with pet birds must make sure that these are properly disposed of. Using disinfectants in chicken or bird cages have also been suggested to help minimize the spread of the infection.

There is still no vaccine or therapy for the bird flu. Human victims have to rely on their own immune system to fight off the infection until it subsides by itself.

Zero infection

Dr. Yeoh Eng-kiong, Hong Kong Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food, proposes two major strategic approaches to achieve and sustain "zero infection and transmission" by minimizing human contact with live poultry.

Cold-chain approach. All live poultry is slaughtered and undergoes a chilling process in a slaughterhouse. Retail outlets would only be allowed to sell poultry chilled at a temperature between 0 and 4 degrees Celsius.

Freshly slaughtered chicken approach. All live poultry is slaughtered and dressed at regional slaughtering hubs where consumers buy them immediately so they do not have to undergo a chilling process.

Other preventive measures include:

- Removing poultry farms from populated areas.
- Reducing the number of live chickens in each poultry stall in the market.
- Redesigning the poultry stall layout to provide segregation between customers and live poultry.
- Increasing the number of market rest days for thorough cleaning and disinfection.
- Enforcing strict precautions in the conveyance of live poultry.

Bird flu fast facts

THE H5N1 strain of the bird flu virus has killed 20 Vietnamese and 10 Thais this year, while millions of birds have been culled. The virus has also been found in pigs, fueling fears it could mix with human viruses and mutate, leading to a pandemic.

Following are some facts from the World Health Organization and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

- Avian influenza is an infectious disease of birds caused by type A strains of the influenza virus. It was first identified in Italy more than 100 years ago and now occurs worldwide.
- Migratory waterfowl, particularly wild ducks, are the natural reservoir of avian influenza viruses. These birds are also the most resistant to infection. Domestic poultry, including chickens and turkeys, are particularly susceptible to epidemics.
- The virus does not typically infect humans. But in 1997 an outbreak of the H5N1 strain among poultry in Hong Kong caused severe respiratory illness in 18 people, of whom six died. It was the first instance of direct bird-to-human transmission of bird flu.
- Of the 15 bird flu subtypes, H5N1 is of great concern because it mutates rapidly and has a propensity to acquire genes from viruses infecting other animal species. If more humans become infected with H5N1, and if more mixing occurs between human and avian flu viruses, then there would be a greater chance that a new subtype would emerge that could cause a pandemic.
- Birds which survive infection excrete the virus for at least 10 days, orally and in feces, greatly increasing its spread in live poultry markets and by migratory birds.
- For the highly infectious types, studies have shown that a single gram of contaminated manure can contain enough virus to infect one million birds.

Reuters

A TOTAL of 183 surgeons nationwide participated in the first-ever virtual OR in the country.

Surgeons go high-tech

Text and photo by Charles E. Buban

INSIDE a conference room at the Philippine General Hospital, close to two dozen doctors gather to watch a video of a surgical procedure performed by a colleague months before. They comment on the operation and ask their colleague to explain his techniques. But what could have been an ordinary medical conference is made exceptional by the fact that the group is joined by other doctors from various parts of the country, live via Webcast.

Webcasting is the use of the World Wide Web to broadcast information, including audio and video feeds.

Last Sept. 21, the first virtual operating room was held at the PGH. A total of 183 surgeons nationwide participated. The doctors discussed a parotidectomy performed last May by Dr. Arturo dela Peña, a consultant at the UP-PGH Division of Surgical Oncology/Head and Neck Surgery.

(A parotidectomy is the surgical removal of the parotid gland, a salivary gland in front of and below the ear.)

Said Dela Peña: "Virtual OR opens up a lot of possibilities. One of them is that we can bring together leading surgeons from around the country to voice their views on exceptional surgical cases while at the same time allowing those stationed in remote locations to listen and interact."

Much time, money

Before the advent of Webcasting, Dela Peña said, doctors had to go to the actual operating room to watch a surgical procedure or to watch a video tape of that procedure or to acquire a surgical atlas. That required a great deal of time and money.

Virtual OR, on the other hand, provides audio-visual interactivity without much cost, the doctor said.

During the country's first virtual OR, the UP-PGH was hooked up with the University of Santo Tomas University Hospital, Makati Medical Center, Philippine Heart Center, University of the East Ramon R. Magsaysay Hospital, Batangas Medical Society, Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center (in Cebu) and Davao Doctors Hospital.

Resource provider

The pharmaceutical firm Merck Sharp and Dohme Philippines provided the resources for the virtual OR. It had previously set up resource centers within the hospitals, providing medical practitioners with a wide range of literature, multimedia services and conference facilities.

"Since we have Webcasting capability in these centers, we decided to take [things] to the next level [and] provided opportunities for doctors around the country to interact live online on interesting and provocative medical cases," said MSD corporate affairs director Christine Liwanag.

"The exceptional aspect of this [Webcast] is that it only requires minimal computer technology. The virtual OR was completed without any need for satellite down-linkage—the downloading of software or hardware materials or any other high technology applications—which was a must before," said Liwanag.

Virtual ORs will now form part of MSD resource center's offerings.

RP gains in Popdev, reproductive health

By A. Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

FOR THE PHILIPPINES, here are some scenarios devoutly to be wished by 2015:

- Universal access to reproductive health services
- Reduction of illiteracy in women and girls
- An enrollment ratio of at least 90 percent for primary schoolchildren (Grades 1-4)
- Seventy-five percent reduction in maternal deaths
- Reduction of infant deaths by at least 40 percent of all births assisted by skilled attendants

And by next year, to have sixty percent of primary health care and family planning facilities offer a wide range of safe and effective family planning methods, essential obstetric care, and reproductive tract infection (RTI) prevention and management.

These are just some of the goals of the groundbreaking International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), held in Cairo in September 1994, and since then commemorated every five years. The Philippines is a signatory to the 20-year ICPD program of action, which promotes poverty alleviation and human rights. The goals center around population and development and reproductive health.

This year is the ICPD's 10th anniversary, and it will be observed during the United Nations General Assembly in New York on Oct. 14. In connection with the anniversary, the Philippines will hold its "ICPD at 10" national conference at the Heritage Hotel, Pasay City, on Oct. 4-6.

"The ICPD stands at midpoint, it is now 10 years old, and looking forward to the next 10 years," said Tomas Osias, executive director of the Commission on Population (Popcom).

He quipped, "You might call it an Intensity 10 conference."

The ICPD-related conference is being supported by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Around 400 participants from government agencies and NGOs are expected to attend, and the diplomatic community has been invited.

Osias added, "The conference will focus on the question: 10 years after becoming a signatory to the ICPD, what has the country achieved along the conference's program of action? What challenges remain?"

Gains achieved

Population, family planning and reproductive health issues have been in the headlines once again, fueled by debates over the two-child policy advocated by Rep. Edcel Lagman. These arguments have tended to gloss over the gains, albeit modest, achieved in PopDev and reproductive rights during the last 10 years.

For example, all legal and medically safe family planning methods are now available in the country. The total fertility rate has declined from 4.1 in 1993 to 3.5 in 2003. More important, maternal deaths have declined from 209 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 172 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1998.

Women's health programs like "Women's Health and Safe Motherhood" have been given priority.

Infant death rates declined from 57 per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 49 per 1,000 live births in 1998. The death rates of children under 5 declined from 80 per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 49 in 1998.

And the life expectancy of both sexes increased from 67.4 years in 1994 to 69.3 years in 2000.

Gaps, challenges

There are, however, many gaps and challenges still confronting the PopDev and reproductive health program.

There is an urgent need, for example, to improve access, especially on the part of the poor, to improved quality reproductive health and family planning services, through appropriate budget support.

Contraceptives should be made available in the face of declining donor support.

And among our adolescents and young adults, there is a significant minority who are sexually active. There is a need to warn them of the dangers of unbridled sexuality, and to provide them with appropriate information and health services.

Balancing efficacy, safety of arthritis drugs

THERE was much excitement in the late 1990s over a new class of arthritis drugs, known as the highly selective COX-2 inhibitors. The drugs were considered a superior option, promising to effectively relieve pain in conditions such as arthritis without the side effects caused by traditional medications.

Both traditional and newer drugs work by suppressing some chemicals in the body (known as COX-2) that cause pain and inflammation.

Traditional medications, however, prevent another group of chemicals (known as COX-1) from maintaining a healthy stomach. Thus, side effects such as ulcer and stomach bleeding become common complaints.

In contrast, less of these side effects are experienced with the newer drugs as they selectively target COX-2, without affecting COX-1. But the fanfare over these drugs did not last long as concerns on their cardiovascular safety mounted.

Growing evidence

In a symposium held last June in Dubai, Dr. Daniel E. Furst, the Carl M. Pearson professor of rheumatology at the University of California (LA) in the United States, showed there was growing evidence of a relationship between increasing COX-2 selectivity and the risk of cardiovascular adverse effects or heart attacks.

Furst cited a voluntary adverse event reporting system set up by the Canadian Health Authority which showed reports of increased risk of heart attack and cardiovascular events with highly selective COX-2 drugs. In contrast, meloxicam, a drug with just enough COX-2 and COX-1 inhibition to reduce pain in arthritis and at the same time produce less gastrointestinal side effects, had no reports of increased heart attacks.

Doubt on safety

More recently, findings from a Food and Drug Administration (FDA) study presented during an epidemiological and drug safety meeting in France linked a highly selective COX-2 inhibitor to an increased risk of heart attack and sudden cardiac death.

With these revelations, Furst recommended that when considering the most appropriate anti-inflammatory medication for patients, physicians should consider striking a balance between efficacy and safety.

What is Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA)?

Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA) is a potentially life-altering and life-threatening breathing disorder that occurs during sleep.

The upper Airway repeatedly collapses, causing cessation of breathing (apnea) or inadequate breathing (hypopnea) and sleep fragmentation.

What causes the airway to collapse during sleep?
Several factors that can contribute to airway collapse are:
- Extra tissue in the back of the throat, such as large tonsils or uvula
- A decrease in the tone of the muscles holding the airway open
- Nasal obstruction
- Certain jaw or facial structures or attributes, such as a recessed chin

How many people have OSA?
Statistics reveal that:
- 4 in 100 middle-aged men have OSA
- 2 in 100 middle-aged women have OSA
- Most OSA sufferers remain undiagnosed and untreated

Symptoms
- There are some easy-to-identify signs and symptoms associated with OSA.
- Do you snore?
- Do you choke or grasp for breath while you sleep?
- Has anyone told you that you stop breathing during sleep?
- Has your weight changed in the last 5 years?
- Have you ever nodded off or fallen asleep while driving a vehicle?
- If you answered yes to two or more of these questions, you may suffer from OSA.

Additional Symptoms include morning headaches, difficulty concentrating, depression, irritability, memory loss and sexual dysfunction.

What happens if OSA is not treated?
People who do not seek diagnosis and effective treatment for OSA can be at increased risk for:
- High Blood Pressure
- Heart Disease
- Heart Attack
- Stroke
- Fatigue-related motor vehicle and work accidents
- Decreased quality of life

What treatment are available for OSA?
The most common treatment is:
CPAP (Continuous Positive Airway Pressure) pronounced see-PAP. **CPAP equipment treats OSA** by providing a gentle flow of positive-pressure air through a nasal mask to keep the airway open during sleep.

With CPAP Therapy:
- Breathing becomes regular and snoring stops
- Oxygen level in the blood becomes normal
- Restful sleep is restores
- Quality of life is improved
- Risk for high blood pressure, heart disease, heart attack, stroke and vehicular or work accidents is reduced.

Sleep Diagnostic Test (Polysomnograph) is now available at **LUNG CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES.** For further inquiry and scheduling call the **Sleep Laboratory, Section of Respiratory Services** at telephone no. 924-6101 loc. 363.

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CAP still barred from selling education plans

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has not renewed the license of pre-need giant College Assurance Plan Philippines Inc. to sell education plans.

This despite CAP's submission to the SEC of a memorandum of agreement with a local investor, which has committed to invest in the embattled pre-need firm.

SEC chair Fe Barin said the commission has not acted on CAP's pending application to extend the license as the company had yet to comply with other SEC requirements.

CAP's dealer license expired last Sept. 30.

The SEC under former chair Lilia Bautista required CAP to submit to the SEC proof of its subscription agreement with an investor.

Green Circle and Greensquare Property Corp., firms linked to businessman-banker Romeo Roxas, have come forward and committed to invest in CAP by purchasing preferred shares.

Roxas is a close friend of the Sobrepeñas, the family that owns a majority stake in CAP.

In exchange for these shares, these firms would transfer pieces of property to CAP.

The transfer of assets was expected to increase CAP's trust fund assets and address future liabilities of the pre-need firm.

Sources said the property firms' assets were valued at between P3 billion and P6 billion. The preferred shares were supposed to carry an option to be converted into common shares or voting shares after a certain period, based on the initial agreement between CAP and the investor.

Company sources also said CAP had completed an agreement with an investment house in Hong Kong with global operations that would allow CAP to borrow $127 million. Sources have declined to identify the investor.

Barin, however, assured the public that CAP has not closed down and would continue to service its obligations.

SEC has not specified a deadline as to when CAP should complete the requirements for the renewal of its license.

Apart from extending its dealer's license, CAP also asked the SEC to allow it to sell new education plans worth P1 billion.

In the first half, CAP recorded a net loss of P1.68 billion, 398 percent more than the net loss of P330 million during the same period last year.

CAP had recently paid penalties to the SEC for exceeding the P5-billion limit of securities it was earlier allowed to sell.

The company exceeded the limit by P64 million in August.

Cyber City invests ₱60M in Mindanao

By Ronnel W. Domingo

AMERICAN firm Cyber City Teleservices Ltd. is investing an additional P60 million to expand the country's first call center in Mindanao.

According to the Department of Trade and Industry, the project would add 400 seats to Cyber City's operations.

This would put the firm a step closer to meeting its objective of doubling its 2,500-strong corps of agents by the end of the year.

Cyber City, based in New Jersey and California, has a contact center base at the Clark Special Economic Zone.

"Contact center is an industry where the Philippines clearly has an edge," Trade Secretary Cesar V. Purisima said.

"It is a sector that continues to grow as a result of concerted efforts of the government and the private sector to bring in investments and provide quality jobs," he added.

He said that the industry has been growing at a fast clip over the past four years.

Estimates showed that by the end of 2004, there would be 40,000 seats and over 60,000 employees.

Revenues from local call centers were projected to reach as high as $800 million this year.

There are at least 60 companies engaged in contact centers and outsourcing services in the country.

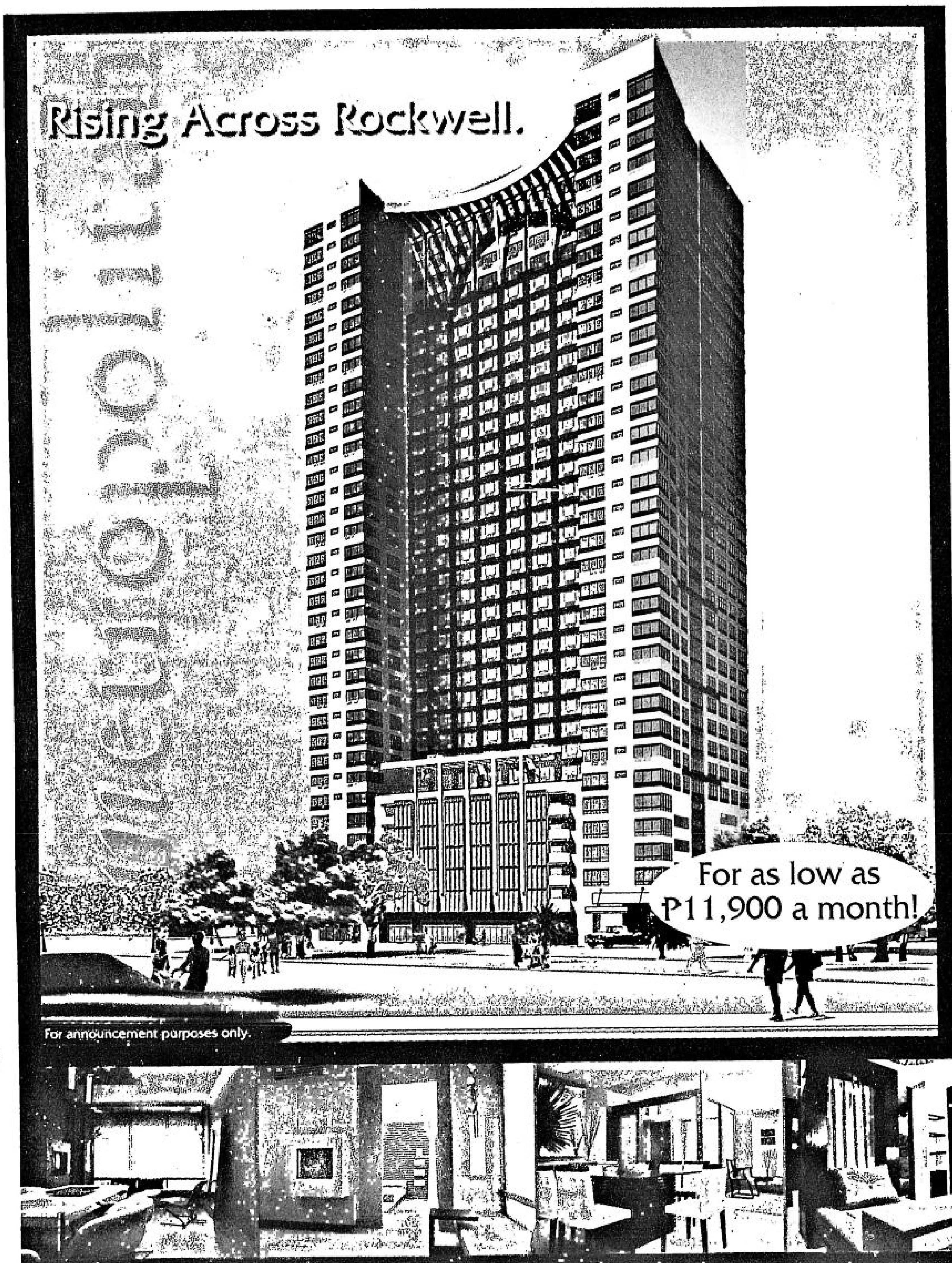
Most of these are affiliates or subsidiaries of US-based firms catering to top Fortune 500 corporations.

Cyber City offers services ranging from traditional inbound calls to Web-enabled platforms including 24-hour help desk support, tech-support e-mail, live chat and browsing assistance.

To maintain a steady supply of highly skilled workers, Cyber City has entered into partnerships with various colleges and universities through its Cyber City International School Educational Foundation Inc.

Under the arrangements, the schools will offer in their curricula elective or short courses that would equip students with the skills to make a career out of customer relation service and outsourcing.

Through this scheme, the company has increased the acceptance rate of qualified job applicants from a low of 3-5 percent to a high of 20-50 percent.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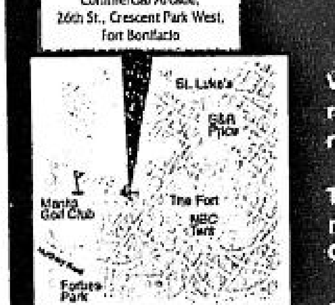

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explosive

Gretchen Barretto marks her spot page C4

Reality Bites page E1

MTV Style Awards highlights page F2

Man about town is back! page D1

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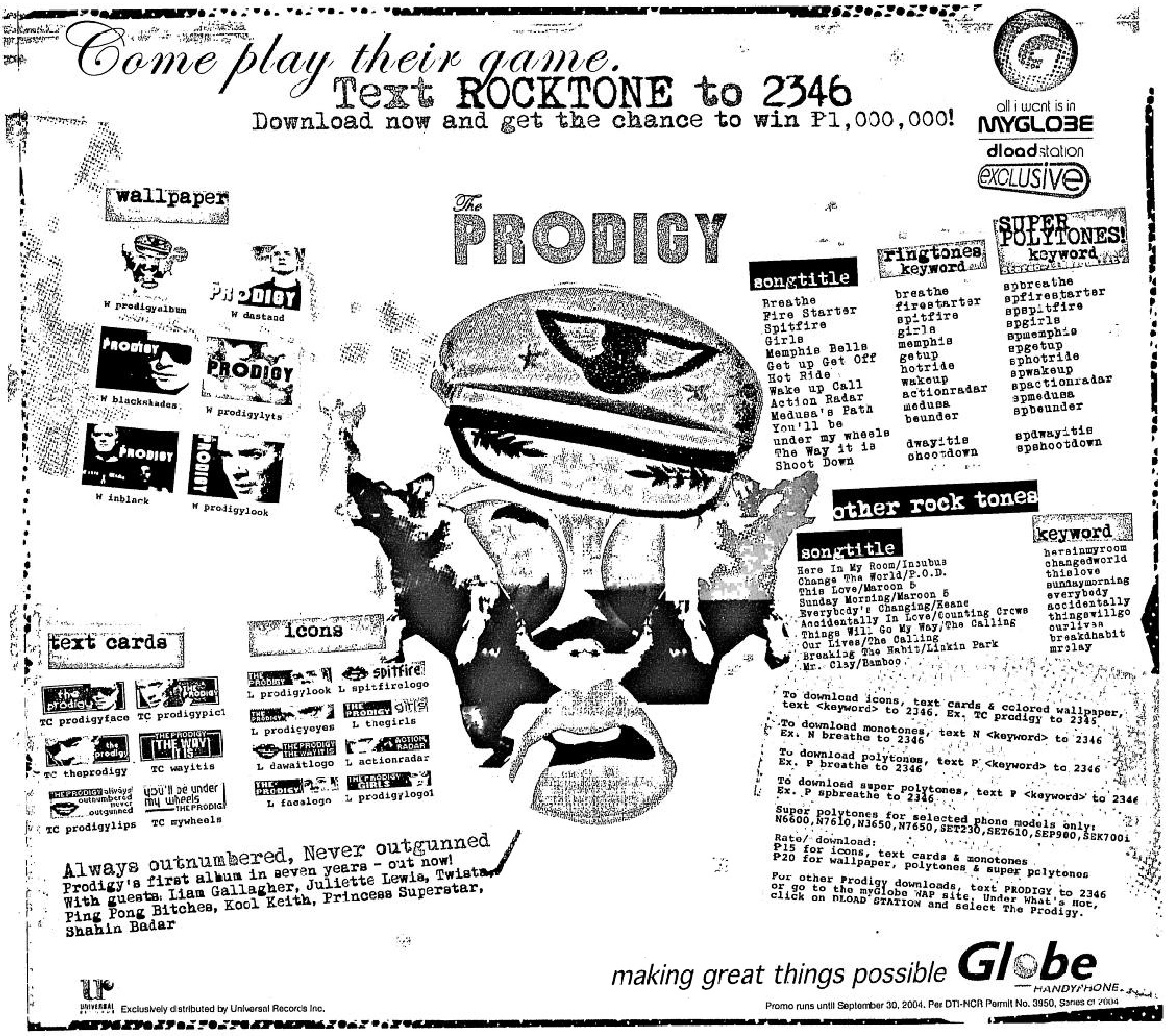

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Spitfire	spitfire	spspitfire
Girls	girls	spgirls
Memphis Bells	memphis	spmemphis
Get up Get Off	getup	spgetup
Hot Ride	hotride	sphotride
Wake up Call	wakeup	spwakeup
Action Radar	actionradar	spactionradar
Medusa's Path	medusa	spmedusa
You'll be under my wheels	beunder	spbeunder
The Way it is	dwayitis	spdwayitis
Shoot Down	shootdown	spshootdown

other rock tones

songtitle	keyword
Here In My Room/Incubus	hereinmyroom
Change The World/P.O.D.	changedworld
This Love/Maroon 5	thislove
Sunday Morning/Maroon 5	sundaymorning
Everybody's Changing/Keane	everybody
Accidentally In Love/Counting Crows	accidentally
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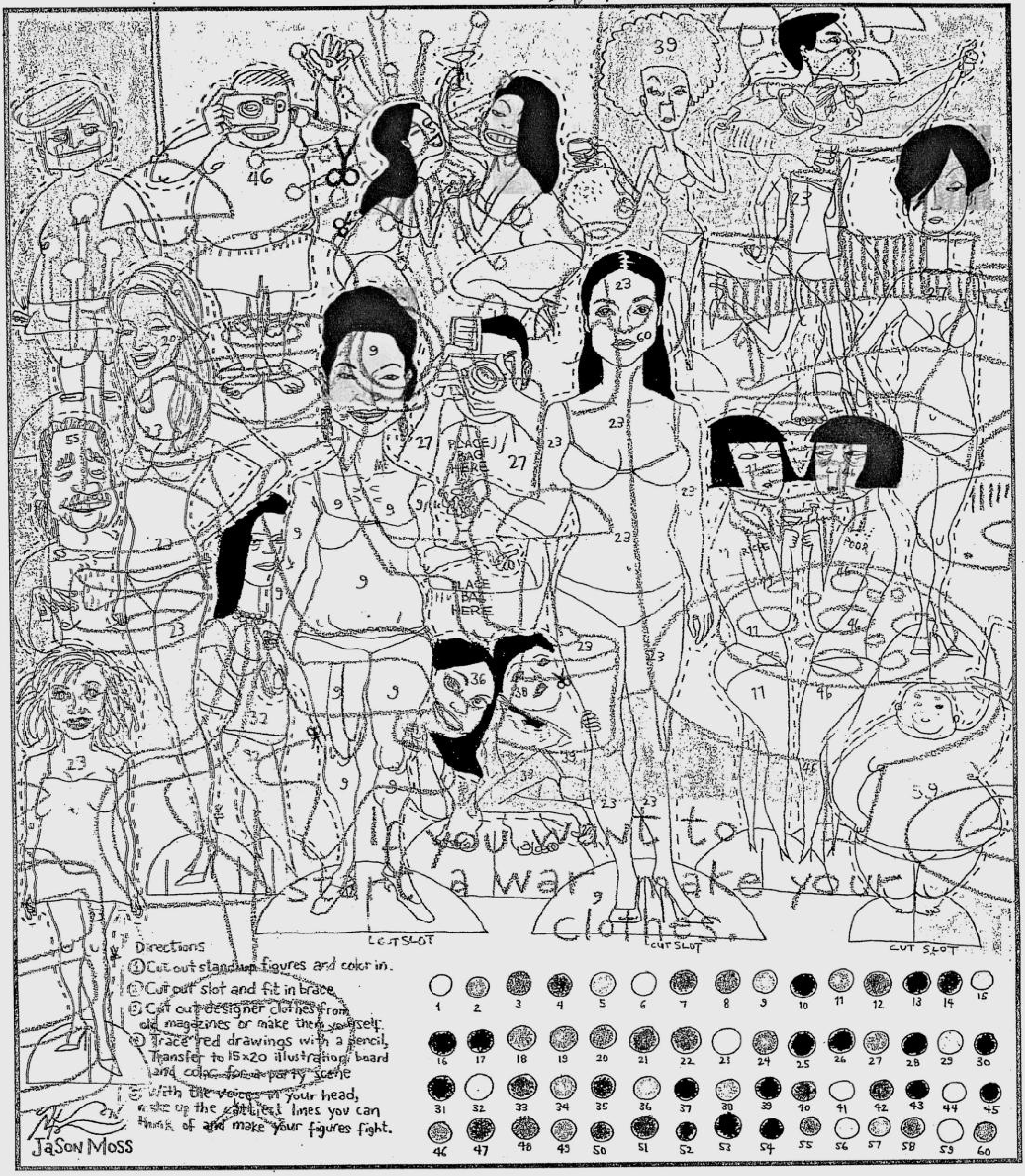
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POOR
RICH
CUT SLOT
CUT SLOT
CUT SLOT
Directions
① Cut out standup figures and color in.
② Cut out slot and fit in brace.
③ Cut out designer clothes from old magazines or make them yourself.
④ Trace red drawings with a pencil, Transfer to 15x20 illustration board and color for a party scene
⑤ With the voices in your head, make up the cattiest lines you can think of and make your figures fight.
JaSoN MoSS
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45
46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60

SO-SO SOCIETY

Like crop circles, Pauly Shore movies and hermaphroditism, Manila high society is an intriguing concept

Original artwork by Jason Moss
Text by Gino de la Paz and Tals Diaz

THERE is a fluorescent pink elephant standing in the middle of a room, but no one is talking about it. Its mascara-painted, heavy-lidded eyes dart about the carpeted space, *dahlings,* taking attendance of who's who, who's not, and what's left of Manila's top tier.

At the far corner, there is a young politician engaged in harmless flirtation with a female scion of a shipping magnate in a southern island province. The young politician cannot read the thoughts behind her sugary smile, thus he is unaware that she thinks he looks really gay in his blinding white Hermes cravat. Milling about the room is a thirtysomething mestizo who wears his *apellido* like a tacky corsage, proud of his heritage as a distant relation of a friar's cousin who was in the second to the last shipload of *peninsulares* that disembarked on our WOW Islas Filipinas four centuries ago. An arresting pair of females tagged as "it" by the omnipotent media—all three of them—have just exited the powder room, ennui scribbled all over their exquisite faces, unaware that they haven't quite fully dusted the white powder from their surgically-enhanced nostrils. A handsome *chinito* dares to pepper his conversations with French words as he rhapsodizes about his two-week wine tour in Bordeaux, glazing over the fact that he got inebriated from actually swallowing the samples of red. *Le* oops!

The pink, Pucci-clad elephant stands alone, a fiction among fictions.

Social satire

Like crop circles, Pauly Shore movies and hermaphroditism, Manila high society is an intriguing concept. It exists as a creation of the minds of a few, sustained by those who believe it to be exceptional. The question is, should it be taken seriously? Or is it really just a satire, a long-standing caricature of imagined gentility?

The hard facts are no-brainers. Manila is by no means the center of the world, being a small city within an impoverished country that continues to struggle with its identity and its role in the world. It is like a small town kid trying to make the exclusive guest list in a sophisticated global city. Taken from this less myopic perspective, is there any significance at all in being tagged as "elite" in an insignificant bubble? Surely there must be, for there are certain people in the social scene that think Manila is the center of the universe, the land of champagne wishes and caviar dreams. Reality alert! They are really dealing with flat supermarket wine and *bagoong* from Batangas.

Players and paparazzi

Many of the players are anything but powerful, relying more on just-add-water kind of fame instead of genuine accomplishment. On one hand, there are climbers who are trudging on to scale the anthill, one photo in the paparazzi page at a time. On the other, one can find self-proclaimed Manila royalty creating traffic with their smuggled Ford Expeditions and ex-Marine bodyguards.

Then there are the envious who constantly piss into this small pond of big fish, because they do not know how to swim in it or go against the current. There are also overstyled glossies, reasonably all 100 of them in circulation, that come out with "It" lists and "A-lists" and lists within those lists featuring the same familiar names. But for whose gratification?

Ah... but to criticize high society means that one is not a part of it, to paraphrase Oscar Wilde (who has, by the way, been quoted one too many times by the chroniclers of high society living). Nonetheless, we need the elite to exist as society's models, as people to emulate. Yet what we believe is sorely needed is more of a meritocracy over a moneytalkracy. To place an emphasis on substance over form, and put the "class" back into the upper class.

Now *that* would be something worth writing about, *n'est-ce pas?*

From the artist Jason Moss:

Twisted logic? My statement "if you want a war, make your own clothes" symbolically is something you have, whether it be the expensive clothes on you, or something you have received, kept and paraded. Clothes do not make you a society figure or less of who you truly are to yourself.

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PHOTO BY STEVE TIRONA, STYLED BY TIM YAP

Ragging about riches

By Tim Yap

THE BATTLE for air kiss superiority and boldfaced name-dropping authority began long ago.

Manila society—all 500 or 50,000 (depends on who's quoting whom) are all into looking at themselves in the glamorized photo albums also known as "society magazines."

Philippine Tatler has led the way when nobody dared venture into "high-so" life. Editor in chief Anton San Diego is proud of the fact that their title pioneered the genre.

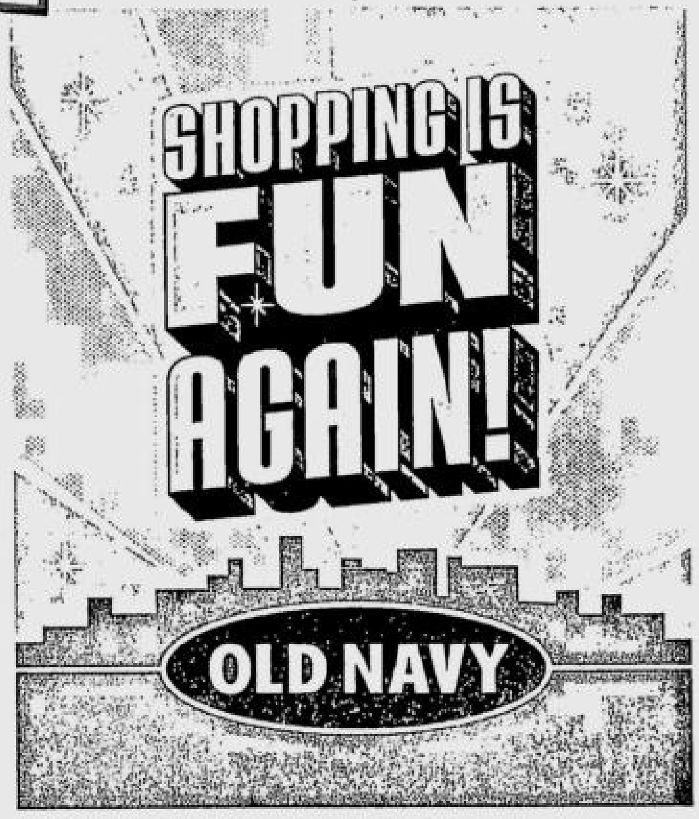
But wait, Lifestyle Asia, its closest competitor, states that it has been around longer. The publication just went on hiatus and was recently re-launched under the Mega group, with Sari Yap as editor in chief (her predecessor, Liza Ilarde, is now the EIC of Mega.)

And now, another challenger, Metro Society is on its way to give the two rags about people's riches a run for their publishing money. The team is composed of Lia Bernardo with Philip Cu-Unjieng and if we're not mistaken, Raul Manzano.

On this page, note the similarity between The Philippine Tatler and Lifestyle Asia covers. (Metro Society is coming out with its maiden issue next month.) The Power Issue—both of them boldly declare on their pages.

Who's really more powerful? Who's the original and who's the copycat? Who will win the battle for society supremacy?

For now, the three-way war wages on.



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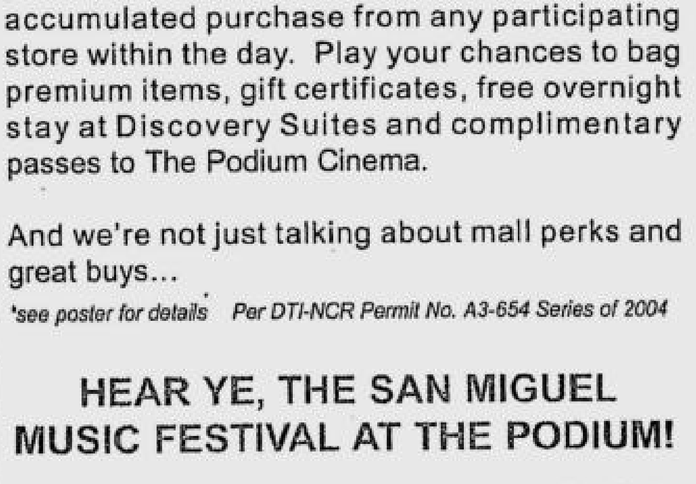

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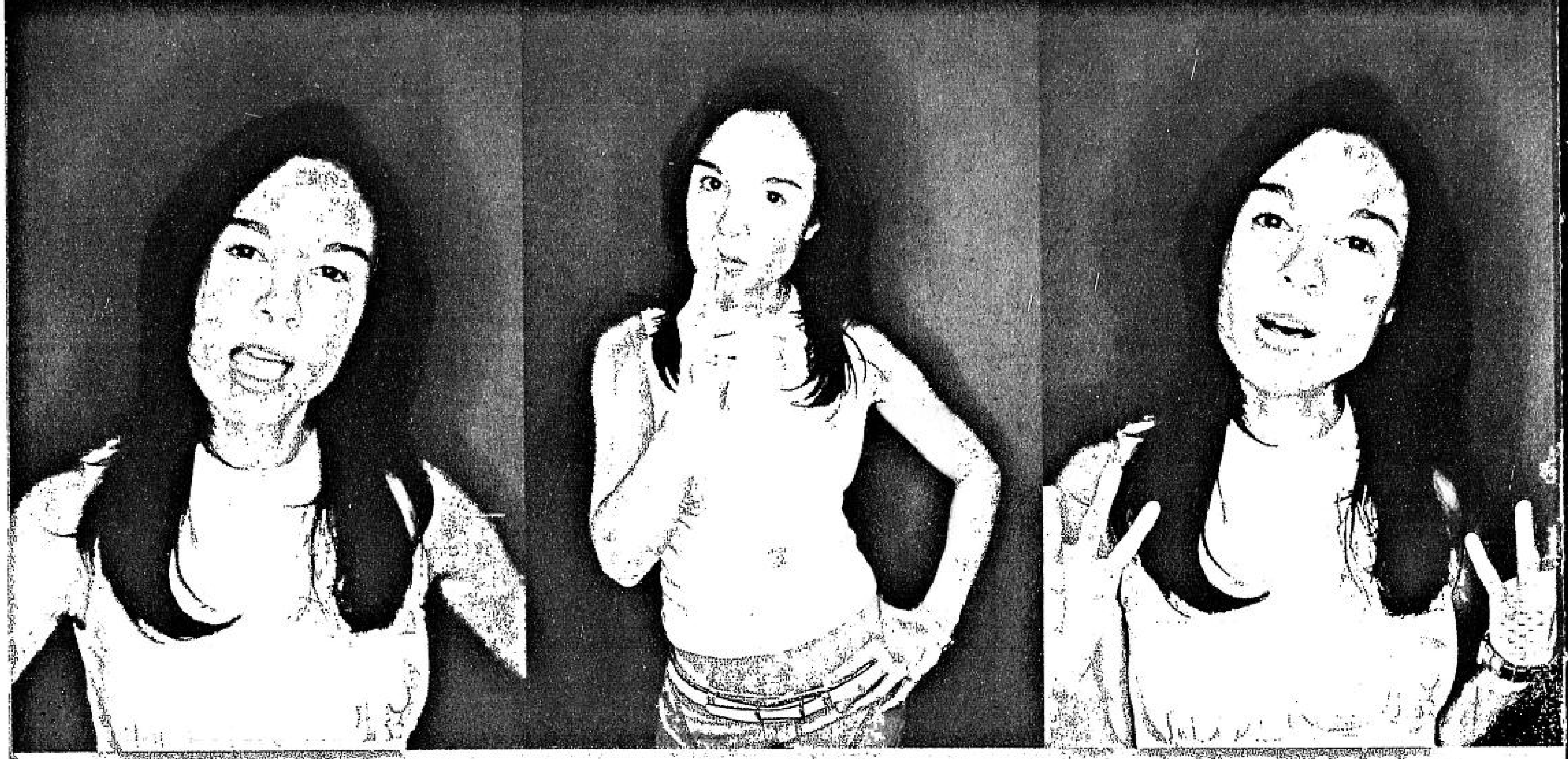

Gretch marks he

By Tim Yap

'I think she's competing with Dominique for Tony's attention. And it's sad because she can keep on trying–but she's not cute. My daughter is.'

STYLING: MICHAEL SALIENTES
PHOTOGRAPHY: STEVE TIRONA
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"I didn't want to fight," says Gretchen Barretto, who has been mum all these years when the topic starts to veer towards society matriarch Meldy Cojuangco.

The Meldy vs Gretchen saga has been brewing for more than a decade now. In between these two ladies are people they both love. Tonyboy, who is the partner of Gretchen and the son of Meldy; and Dominique, Tonyboy and Gretchen's daughter.

So much has been written about this family feud. The latest installation that irked Gretchen and forced her to finally speak up was this tidbit which came out in the August issue of Metro Magazine. It reads:

"How many grandchildren does Imelda Cojuangco have? "I should say 15?" she whispers with a self conscious giggle, in reference to son Tonyboy's little girl with actress Gretchen Barretto. "Fourteen," the art patroness and high society doyenne eventually decides.

Here in this Super! explosive exclusive, Gretchen, like a lioness defending her cub, uncorks years of pent-up pain and emotion for the first time in defense of Dominique.

Why have you kept quiet all these years? The grandchildren issue has been around for quite some time already, why react now?

"Because it's not the first time she's done it. She has done it even before Dominique was born. When I was pregnant, she would already tell everyone that she will not accept the baby—and that was Dominique.

"When Dominique was barely one year old, she came out again in the INQUIRER. That was Mother's Day, and she did it deliberately. They would ask, 'How many grandchildren do you have?' She'll name each one of them. And when it comes to Tony, she'll say, 'With Tony, my grandchild is Patricia.' It was only one name.

"So, of course, she was insinuating that she did not and will not accept Dominique—and with that statement, she insinuated other things as well.

"At that time, I was only 25. I just took it. Even if I didn't want to take it. I just did. But she wasn't content because the year after, she came out with the same thing again. She did it I think three times. And when Dominique turned four—that was a Father's Day issue—she came out in the INQUIRER again. That was on the front page, with two full pages inside, you can look at your library. She said a mouthful.

"At that time, again I did not react. Simply because in our culture, you don't bite anyone who's older. And that has become my rule—never to fight anyone who's in their menopause stage, or older than that, or in their dying age—as a sign of respect.

"I think what was most difficult was that she came up with a lot of issues. Every first quarter of the year since I was with Tony—and we are pushing eleven years this coming February—she would pay writers to come out with rumors like I am going out with a younger, cute guy and that Tony is going out with a younger, very pretty actress. That's always at the same time, every year. And I always did not comment. Because if I did, a lot of things would come out of my mouth, a lot of things that I will regret.

"So I just told myself, well, since I grew up in show business, I'm really used to intrigues, I'll survive this. *Kaya ko na 'to. Kakayanin ko 'to.*

"And then when Dominique was four, that thing happened. She said all those nasty things. I kept quiet. The only comfort I had during that time was if she does anything nasty towards any of us—Tony, Dominique and me—I promised myself that I will come out. I am not going to allow her to malign my daughter, Tony or me.

"And it was quiet for awhile. Although in the midst of all these, a lot of things have been said. Like four years ago, Lizette Banzon-Cojuangco, the sister-in-law of Tony, started spreading rumors and it reached me through (the late) Rico Yan. She said that when Dominique was playing in Meldy's house, they got a doctor to draw blood from her and when they examined it, it didn't match Tony's.

"Kahit sa pagka-fighter ko, I kept it. I cried and cried and cried. I cried because my normal reaction would not be like that. *Iiyak ako pero lalaban ako. Tao lang ako eh*, I'm gonna fight. But I had to stop myself. *Kasi, ayoko na ito lumaki, hindi ko sila kayang labanan.*

"So I told myself, the next time Meldy comes out, I'm gonna speak. And guess what? She did. She came out again in Metro Maga-

r spot

zine. I don't want to fight with her. But then I felt also, for somebody who goes to church every single day, no miss, how can she be so heartless, hitting on somebody, hitting on a child! Dominique was unborn and now she is only 9. She doesn't know how to fight. She doesn't know what's going on.

"Meldy has hit me all these years and I took it. If she continues to hit me now, I might keep quiet. But she's hitting my daughter already. *Sa akin lang*, I think it's about time that she stopped obsessing over Dominique and me. Because I think to obsess over 10 years, 11 years, over a person, is far too long."

Why do you think she's doing it?

"I think she's competing with Dominique for Tony's attention. And it's sad because she can keep on trying—but she's not cute. My daughter is.

"I find it amazing how she continues to chant 'I don't accept Gretchen, I don't accept Dominique!' *Madali naman akong kausap eh*. I have accepted that a long time ago. And I wish she could stop!"

Did you make efforts to get close to her?

"Oh, I did! When Dominique was five months old, I sent Dominique that September for her (Meldy's) birthday with flowers. She never said thank you, she never acknowledged—nothing! Fine with me. I sent her tons of cake, flowers—nothing!

"I know how to try, I know how to try hard. But I also know when to stop. I know when it's painful, I know when things don't work, and I also know how to go on with my life. And with all the hurt that she has caused me, all these years, I really decided after that big interview in INQUIRER, well it's time. I told Tony that it's time that I move on with my life, it's time that I accept that she will never accept Dominique and me. And we've been living our life away from her. *Hindi ko siya hinahanap* and I think that I've learned not to look for who and what I don't have. I enjoy what I have. My happiness is not built around whether she accepts me or not. Or accepts my daughter or not.

"I barely know this person. I barely know Meldy. She never gave me the chance but that's fine, I respect her if that's what she wants. But life is fleeting—a lot of people have been dying, left and right, people we know. And I've also decided that I choose to live my life, to savor every moment I have. I don't wanna obsess over Meldy. I'm coming out to let all her *sosyal* friends know that I am not gonna allow her to malign Dominique or my being.

"Whatever I have, I've worked hard for. Whatever I have more than what I've worked for were all gifts to me from Tony. Nobody can come up to me or nobody can talk behind my back and say that I have in my possession something that was ill-gotten. Now, I'm asking Meldy—can she say the same thing about herself?

'All these years, she has been saying she doesn't accept Dominique. Has she ever stopped, thought, for one minute, or asked herself whether Tony and I accept her as the grandmother of my daughter? Because I don't accept her as the grandmother of my daughter.'

"And talking about her saying that she doesn't accept Dominique... All these years she has been saying she doesn't accept Dominique. Has she ever stopped, thought, for one minute, or asked herself whether Tony and I accept her as the grandmother of my daughter? Because I don't accept her as the grandmother of my daughter.

"First of all, she's not the best example that the world can offer. Really, you know? She's got legal cases to attend to—must I mention the legal cases? If my daughter finds out when she's old enough, I can just almost hear what she's gonna say. 'What a disgrace!'

"She tries to act like a queen, dressed in white, jeweled up, dolled up, when we all know that she was nothing but the *alalay* of Imelda Marcos. I just want to remind her that she doesn't impress me at all."

Have you guys ever talked face to face?

"Many times. Christmas dinners at [Tony's brother] Choy's or whoever's house and it would just be the most depressing day of my life. I've spent three Christmases with them and after that, I told Tony that I don't want to put myself in that situation again, it's just too depressing. And it was obvious they never accepted me. Fine, fine!"

All of them?

"Well, they all follow Meldy. They're all puppets of Meldy. They're all puppets, and she hates me because I don't follow her. I wasn't born to be her slave. I wasn't born to be a puppet of Meldy.

"I learned to work at an early age. I put food on the table, I paid rent, I did many things in life. I have many ambitions but it's not one of my ambitions to be a puppet of hers."

But was there ever a time that you felt she reached out to you?

"Never."

So she completely closed her doors?

"From the start. From the very beginning."

What do you call her, Mama Meldy, *tita*?

"Nothing. I don't call her anything."

How about when you see each other, do you guys even nod, or say, "Hi, Mrs. Cojuangco?"

"Nothing. I'd kiss her and it would be like she never saw anything or anyone. She'd look up in the air. *Para siyang* Bella Flores."

So you guys never talked like, "Hey, I want to be close to you, please give me the chance," from your side?

"No. How could I when, from the very start, I heard a lot of things already? If I went to the Christmas dinners it was not to see her but to

GRETCH/ C6

CINE
CINE BAR

Gretch marks her spot

From page C4

be with Tony and Dominique."

So every time you attend the Christmas dinners you'd feel the animosity from everyone?

"The only one that was really nice to me was Choy. The only one who'd stay around was Choy. He was the only one decent enough."

How about Dominique, does she ever ask about her lola?

"Well she would go there before, during their Saturday lunches, and Tony told me that when Dominique saw Meldy, she was hysterical. Maybe because of the makeup. *Di ba* when you're a kid and you see somebody with thick make up—seriously! You know, my daughter is afraid of characters *kasi*, up to now. She really freaked out.

"I remember the only conversation we had was on one Christmas, when she said *'Walang modo yung anak mo, hindi ako hinahalikan.'* Syempre gusto ko siyang sagutin, but I just smiled."

So are you still mad at her?

"I'm more mad at how heartless she could be. If two adults fight, we can throw words at each other and that's fine. But to fight with someone who is nine?

"And umm, a few months after that INQUIRER article, she... (Pauses, takes a deep breath, then continues) This, not a lot of people know. Maybe two months after, Meldy... (Pauses again) This is the reason why I'm talking now, because I feel I really have to unload all the hurt. Two months after the article, I haven't even gotten over the things she has said, my ex calls me up on my cell phone, and he was looking for Tony. And he said it was urgent. I felt it was so urgent that I started screaming and I said, 'Why, what's happening, tell me?' And he said, 'Well, Meldy Cojuangco came to me and she asked me to, um, to tell everybody, to accept, *angkinin mo na si* Dominique *kasi anak mo naman siya.*' Can you imagine what I've been taking all these years?"

And you didn't say anything?

"The reason that I didn't speak up is because of my love and respect for Tony. I wanted to keep the peace. But I'm gonna go insane if I don't speak up. She tries to project she's a holy person, but..."

What do you think they want you to do, leave Tony, is that it?

"Well, I'm sorry to break it to her—I'm sorry to break it to you, Meldy—but I'm here to stay. I'm here to stay. Whether or not she turns blue from anger, whether or not she drops dead in jealousy or whatever it is she's feeling, (stresses) I'm here to stay. It's not her who's gonna destroy us. I'm not gonna allow anyone to destroy us.

"I'm gonna take this relationship to my grave, whether she likes it or not."

How about Tony, how does he feel about this situation with his mom?

"He's embarrassed. He's disappointed. I can't really talk to Tony about Meldy because he all of a sudden turns into the Incredible Hulk when you mention her name.

"When Dominique was all of eight months, Tony was having a massage. All of a sudden, he screamed 'Ouch!' And then Dom went crawling fast to the yaya. She didn't even have teeth yet, she bit the maid and started hitting the maid to protect her dad! She was so ready to protect her dad."

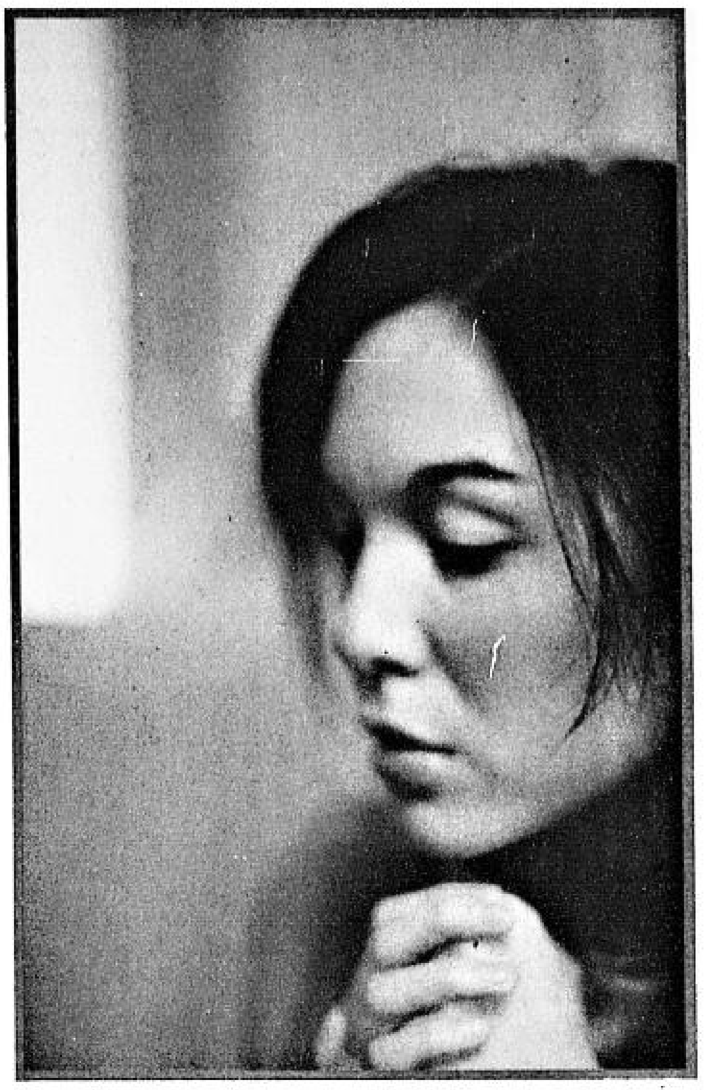
There's been so much pain and so much that has happened between all of you. But is it in any way mendable?

"Definitely not. We've known that all these years. That's why we just kept away. We're just living our own life."

You think Dominique knows about the situation?

"She knows, she knows! My daughter is smart. And I tell her, your *lola* doesn't... (and then she corrects herself) the mom of your dad doesn't accept you. And I tell her because I know she's gonna hear it somewhere. I'd rather

GRETCH/ C7



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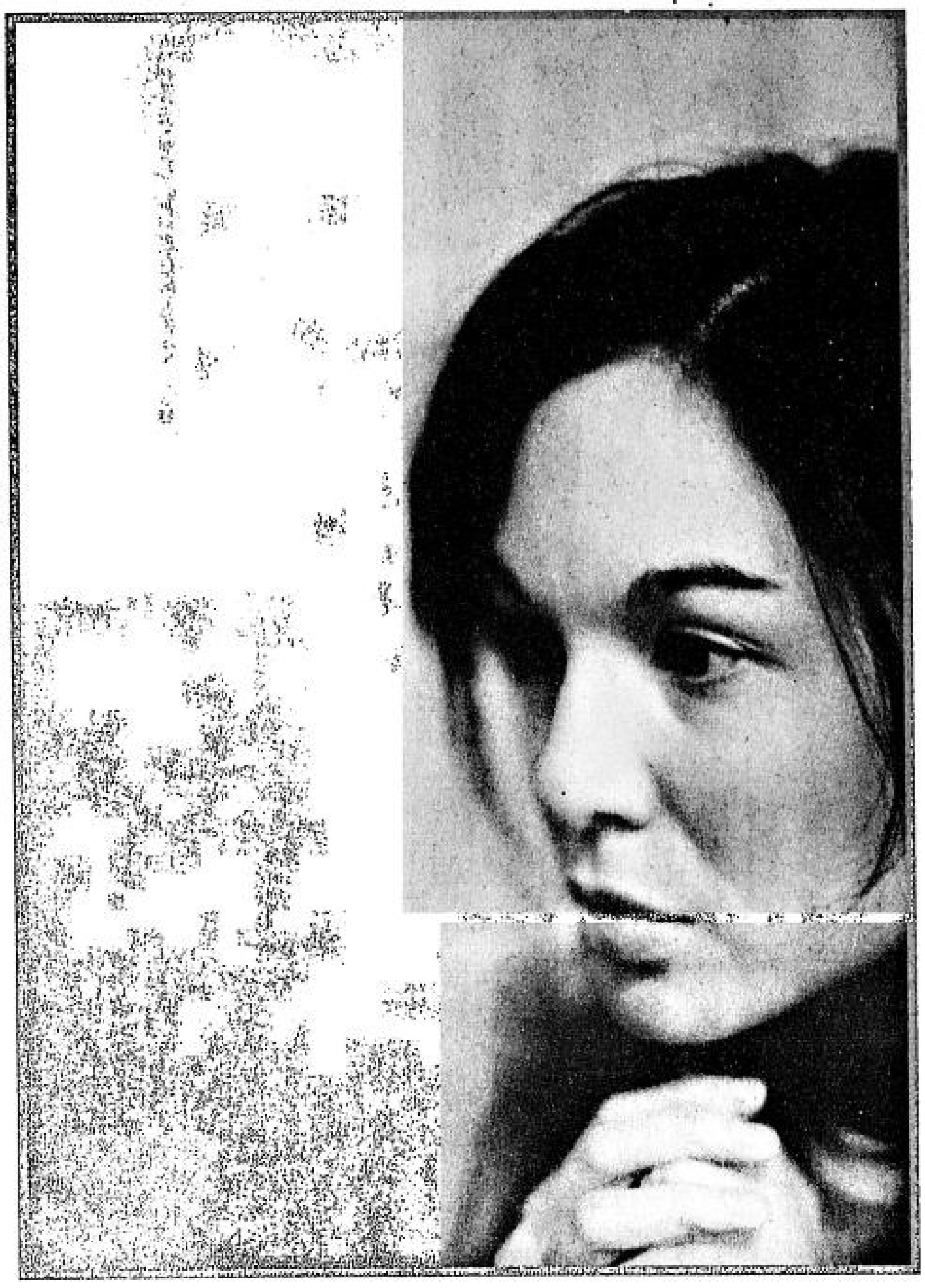
From page C6



it comes from me. We tell her everything."

She's never cried about it to you?

"She prayed. Can you imagine, she prayed for her?

"Why can't I fight back? That's what I asked Tony. Maybe she keeps on fighting with me because I haven't been fighting back. I've been taking it. I'm not gonna take it anymore.

"If she says anything against my daughter, I'm gonna throw the bomb."

What do you want to achieve by saying these things?

"By making it known to everybody that hey, I am not the old Gretchen who will lock herself up in the room and cry all day, all night, because of what she said."

But people don't know that you lock yourself in a room and cry. They think that you're putting up a brave front. Nobody knows that you cry alone.

"Well, I'm human. I cry. When you hit my daughter, I will cry. When you hit me, I will still cry. But I'm not afraid anymore. I'm not afraid of the consequences."

How do you think it will affect Dominique?

"I don't know. What I know is that all these things that she's been doing and saying, they're already affecting Dominique. I'm just here to defend her. That's why I'm coming out. Because I want to show Dominique that we are here to protect her, just like the way she protected her dad when she was eight months old. It's an instinct that people have when they love each other."

How about you, do you think that Dominique is strong enough?

"I hope so. I'm trying to raise her to be strong. After all, to belong to the Cojuangco family, you have to be strong, otherwise you'll be dead. If I didn't grow up in show business, I would have died a long time ago with all the things she has thrown at me.

"The funny part is, I haven't been doing movies for 11 years now. I have no TV show and yet rumors about me are so present, as if I have a movie coming out! Where is it all coming from? When I was doing ASAP two years ago, Meldy started saying, *hiwalay na sila*, because Tony cut her allowance. *Wala na raw pera si* Gretchen! She has to work! (Laughs)"

So now, you think your family is stronger because of all these trials?

"Oh, definitely. We have only each other. It's not easy. Really, not easy! It's not normal."

So what's your final message to her?

"Sorry to break it to Meldy, but Dominique has Tony's brains. You know when she's old enough, just give her a few years. I'm giving Meldy a few years. Dominique will be strong enough and smart enough to answer Meldy. But now that she is only nine, it will be me that she will have to deal with.

A grandmother, a mother and a daughter. Among these three, who bears the heaviest weight?

I guess Gretchen put it best when she told this writer about one of their most intimate family moments. "When we would pray at night, we would take turns, so Dominique was the last one. She said, 'Dear God, please bless the mom of my dad even if she doesn't like me. Keep her in the palm of Your hand.'"

And Tonyboy and Gretchen burst into tears.

> 'Nobody can come up to me or nobody can talk behind my back and say that I have in my possession something that was ill-gotten. Now, I'm asking Meldy—can she say the same thing about herself?'

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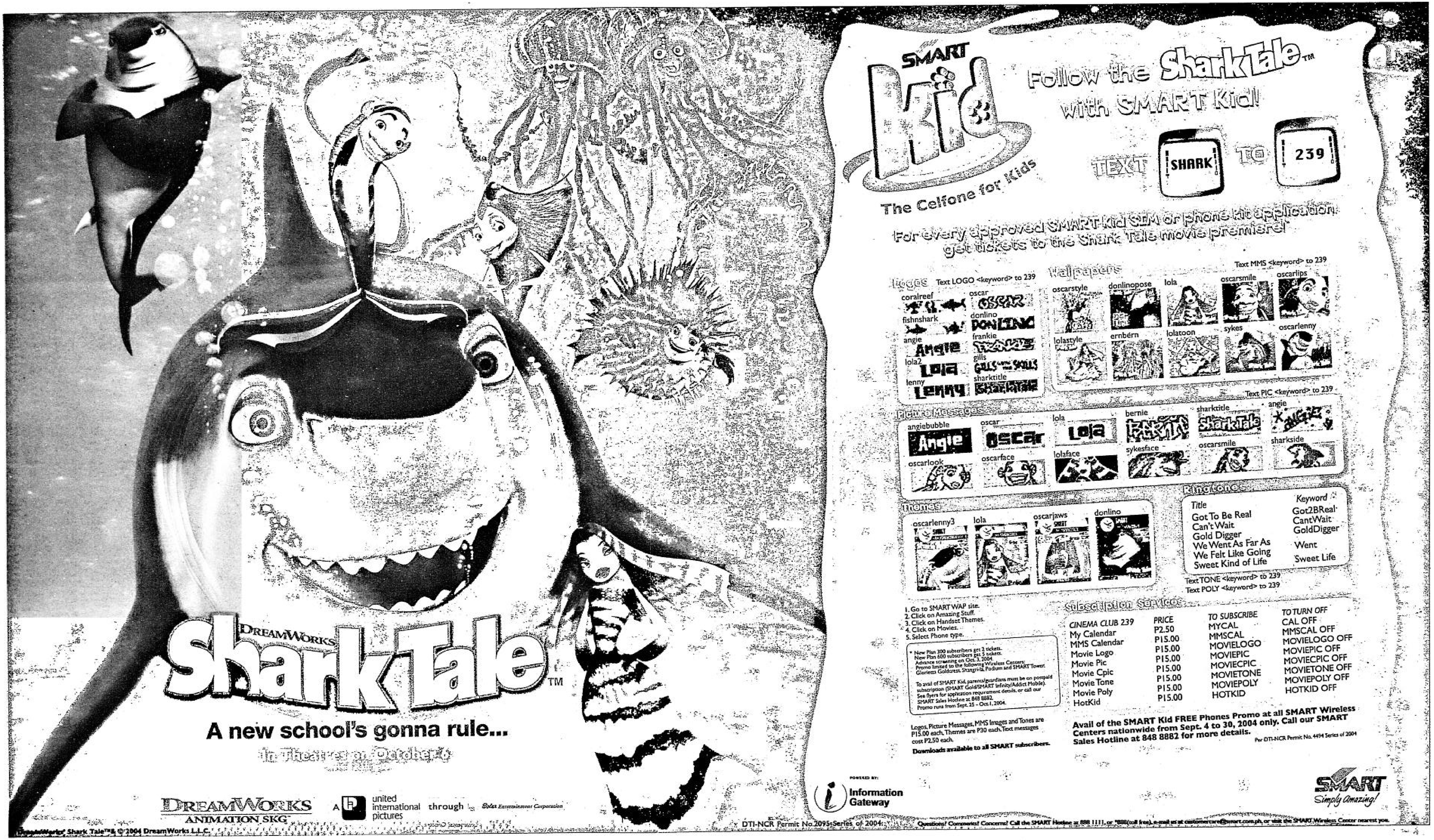

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Chuck Dy

Dear Man About Town,

My problem is really embarrassing. I think I suffer from flatulence. I haven't consulted with a doctor yet, but I'm pretty sure my condition is not what you'd consider normal. I know everybody passes gas once in awhile, but how often is "normal"? In my case, it happens at least a dozen times a day. It is totally unexpected and uncontrollable. Talk about awkward: two weeks ago I was having dinner with my girlfriend's parents in an expensive restaurant and I farted during a break in the conversation. Another time, I was in the middle of a business presentation at work! People usually pretend not to notice, but I know that they do. Save me!

TO THINK natural gas is supposedly a nonrenewable energy source! If only technology and social etiquette allowed science to exploit its power and persistence, we might yet turn the fart into fuel. Imagine a world delivered from poverty, famine, disease, and war by a resource ably generated by even the most corpulent and slothful of beer-guzzling couch potatoes. No longer would the fart be marginalized; it would henceforth be welcomed as the tooting sound of progress, heralding the breaking winds of change. The stench would be a small price to pay for world peace.

Unfortunately, it may take considerable time before digestive gases could be harnessed to, say, charge a cellular phone battery—no Smart Fart ads in the foreseeable future (this would lend a disturbing dimension to that whole *pasa load* campaign, anyhow). For now, it re-

WIND TALKER/ D3

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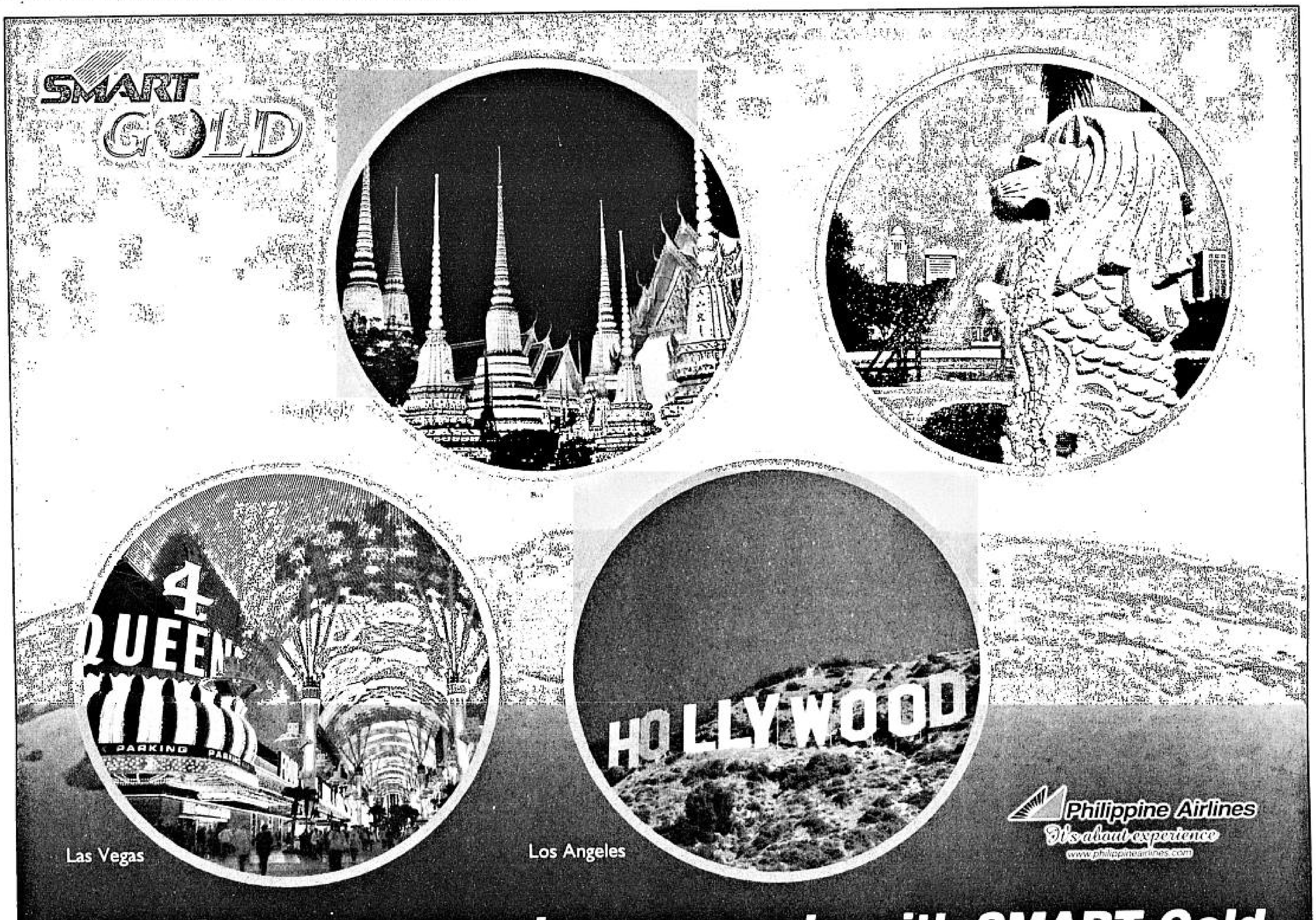

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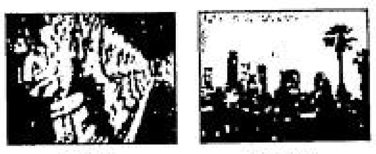

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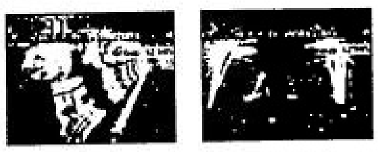

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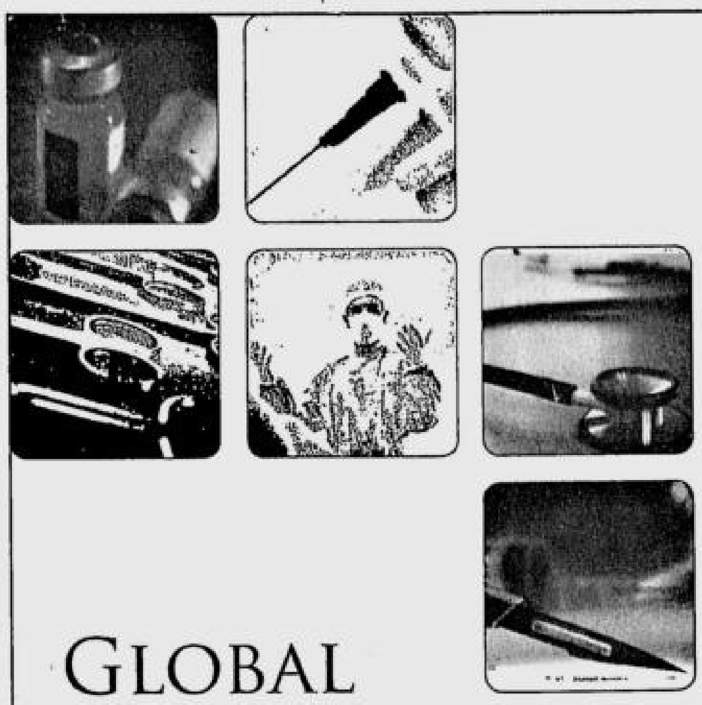

THE PHILIPPINE ACADEMY OF CLINICAL & COSMETIC DERMATOLOGY

OFFICIAL MEMBERSHIP LIST OF DERMATOLOGISTS, 2004

GLOBAL DERMATOLOGY 2004

1ST ANNUAL CONVENTION
WESTIN PHILIPPINE PLAZA HOTEL
OCTOBER 1–3, 2004

MESSAGES

Malacañan Palace, Manila

My cordial greetings to all the officers and members of the Philippine Academy of Clinical and Cosmetic Dermatology (PACCD) as you hold your 1st Annual Convention dubbed as "Global Dermatology 2004".

I laud your serious efforts in upholding the interests of clinical and cosmetic dermatology in the Philippines. As a young corporation of the best and the brightest professional dermatologists in the country, your providing our people with the means to reinvigorate and enhance their physical well-being through the use of the latest breakthroughs and innovations in the field of dermatology inspires them to lead fuller and more productive lives. Indeed, your organization in striving to elevate the profession to global standards is doing our country a great service.

This convention will help lay the foundations for more worthy undertakings intended to benefit the common good. I urge you to remain steadfast in pursuing your objectives while contributing to our economic and social transformation. Together, let us stand united in working for a better quality of life for all Filipinos.

I wish you all a successful convention. MABUHAY!

Gloria Arroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President, Republic of the Philippines

I convey my warm greetings to the officers and members of the Philippine Academy of Clinical and Cosmetic Dermatology on the holding of their 1st Annual Convention entitled "Global Dermatology 2004".

The Department of Health is privileged to have you as one of its partners in the sustained development of the country's health care system. May this event be a venue to strengthen your unity and empower your member's to achieve global competitiveness.

May you continue to provide essential opportunities and benefits to your members and further improve your services to respond to the challenges of the times.

I wish you a successful convention. Congratulations and mabuhay kayong lahat!

MANUEL M. DAYRIT, M.D., MSc.
Secretary of Health

The PMA Board of Governors joins me in expressing best wishes to you the officers and members of the Philippine Academy of Clinical and Cosmetic Dermatology as you celebrate its first anniversary and mark its 1st Annual Convention on the theme, "Global Dermatology 2004"

We feel truly fortunate and gratified to join you in welcoming participants and delegates to this double header of an event. A maiden anniversary always calls for a celebration. To turn it into a milestone, make it an occasion for the total reaffirmation of your commitment to bring the aspirations and goals of the PACCD to glittering success. We look forward to a most fruitful convention.

Congratulations! Mabuhay ang Philippine Academy of Clinical and Cosmetic Dermatology.

BU C. CASTRO, M.D., LLB, FPSP
President, Philippine Medical Association

The Academy is known to undertake continuous medical education and training covering the scope of what is new in dermatology.

Global Dermatology 2004 is the vision of the Academy where increasing body of knowledge in medical science has increased ten fold in the past decade. We encourage attendance to international and local scientific meet and symposiums sharing knowledge with each other.

I want to ensure also, that the PACCD legislative and regulatory activities are appropriate, aggressive and forward directed, protecting the rights of all dermatologists and physicians in the country.

We convey our health care message to the public.

DR. VINSON B. PINEDA
President, PACCD

All are active official members of the Philippine Medical Association. The Accreditation & the Board of Specialty of PACCD endorses the names of Specialist Dermatologists, Diplomates, Fellows, Regular & Associate Members.

Pillars of: Love, truth, honesty, integrity, humility, unity & good relationship.

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YES, they all know.

Wind Talker

From page D1

mains a social faux pas. Which is really quite surprising, given that this is a totally normal bodily process. Everybody farts—your girlfriend, her parents, your work colleagues at work and, yes, even your parish priest. The significant variables in your situation appear to be quantity and controllability.

Flatulence is the state of having excessive stomach or intestinal gas, resulting in a bloated feeling, as well as increased belching and passing of gas from the rectum. Most people produce from one to three pints and pass gas as often as 14 times a day. I know some my readers are shaking their heads in protest, but this is a medical fart ... I mean fact. Some people even do so up to 25 times a day! That's enough cheese cutting to rival Kraft. Remember: it is possible to expel flatus (technical term for butt burp) without being aware of it. A dozen times a day? Buddy, you're not even in the Big League yet. Write me back when the flowers start dying up.

Paths, possibilities

Excess gas in the digestive tract (which consists of your esophagus, stomach, small and large intestines) is the result of two processes: increased intake of gas, for example, from air you swallow; or increased production of gas as certain undigested foods are broken down by harmless bacteria normally found in your colon.

Aerophagia, or swallowed air, is the result of a variety of habits. If you swallow food improperly, gulp beer too fast, chew gum, overdose on tobacco products or carbonated drinks, inhale helium from party balloons, or hyperventilate during sex, you tend to ingest more air than your body needs. Some of this captured gas is released through the amnesty of belching (which, ironically, also causes flatulence), but the rest is left to find a way out through Guantanamo Butt. So Lesson No. 1 is, ingest everything at a relaxed pace.

And then there's the food you eat. Your body does not digest or absorb some forms of carbohydrates because of a shortage or absence of certain enzymes in your small intestines. This undigested food then passes from the small intestines into the large intestines where normal, harmless bacteria break down the food, producing hydrogen, carbon dioxide and, in about a third of all people, methane (the stuff that ignites). Eventually these gases exit through the rectum, where they develop potential and personality as comic fodder.

Once again, carbohydrates are the bad guys. Seems Dr. Atkins wasn't prosecutor enough to this food group; now flatulence breaks the silence and points an accusing finger at carbs as well. Potatoes, noodles, cabbage, broccoli, asparagus, corn, wheat, beer, red wines, onions, artichokes, and fibrous foods are all accessory to the crime. Even most fruits containing Sorbitol (a sugar found in apples, pears and prunes) are guilty. Did I forget to mention beans? There's a catchy ditty immortalizing the musical bean like it was VH1's Fartist of the Month (the local version promotes *kamote* consumption). Lesson No. 2: balance your diet.

There's a host of other possible causes of flatulence such as poor dietary fiber, parasites, lactase deficiency, malabsorption syndromes, intestinal obstruction (ouch), inflammatory bowel disease (ouch), poor thyroid function, narcotic abuse, and plain old tough luck, but the first two are the most common reasons people suffer for their fart. If you start passing gas excessively (we're talking more than 25 times a day), have accompanying pains, nausea, fevers, vomiting, bleeding, or flaming ghosts shoot out of your ass demanding vengeance from the Spanish colonialists, then you *should* see a physician. Or a priest.

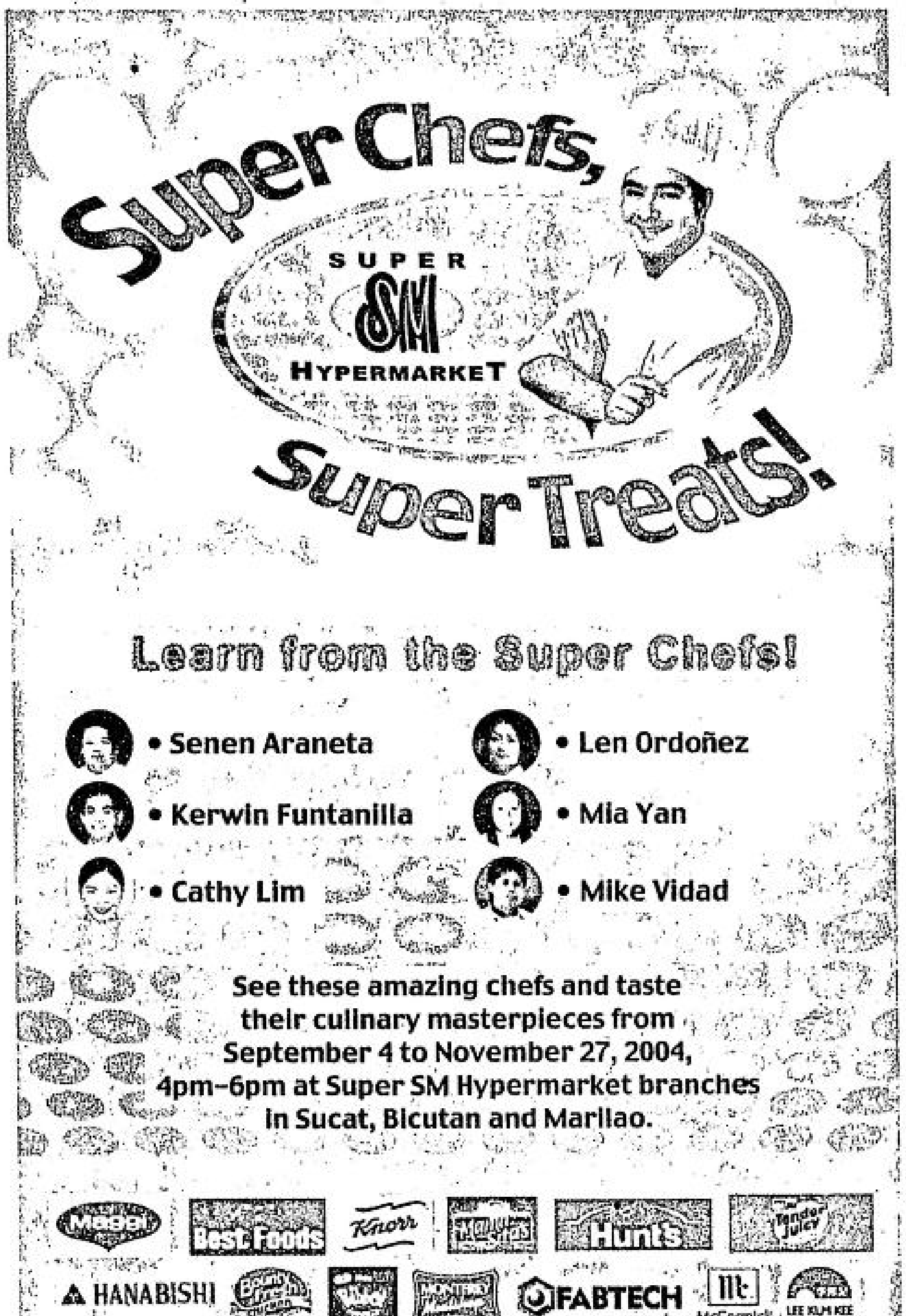
I'm not sure I can help you, though, on the matter of controlling the timing. Logically, it should be easier if you are able to regulate your gas production. In a case of life-imitating-fart, think of it as stockpiling nuclear warheads: the less plutonium you amass, the more effectively you can monitor each weapon of gas destruction, and the more accurately you can dispatch a controlled detonation. Republicans fart a lot.

Bombs away!

And if one does happen to accidentally explode, well, what can you do? Damage control depends on the auditory and olfactory—sound and fury—aspects, as well as the circumstances of your immediate environment. The most uncomfortable characteristic of flatulence is total unreliability. It is indiscriminate of location or audience—during dinner and lovemaking, at the movies, State of the Nation addresses, weddings and funerals—thank God they're not contagious, or the world would be a less hospitable planet. The best-case scenario is when no one actually notices (stealth bomb)—just go on with life and let the gas escape surreptitiously into an unsuspecting atmosphere. Almost as good is a crowded area which makes the source indistinguishable (smart bomb), like a bus. Worst case is when it's just you and another person you have just met, or highly respect, within a confined area (suicide attack), maybe a blind date in the car, or the Pope in a confessional booth. You can't even lie.

Otherwise, treat the fart as an unfortunate but trivial event, worthy of little else but comic relief. Gas does not make the man, clothes do. While excessive flatulence is cause for some embarrassment, it comes nowhere near the realm of spousal abuse or financial fraud. And it can be solved. Take your time breathing. Watch what you eat. Force out as much as you can before leaving the house. Refuse to be ruled by gas, my friend, for we are masters of our own digestive destinies and captains of our shit. We are the directors, writers and principal actors of this play called Metabolism. Flatulence has but a small fart.

(email author at bohemiansamurai@yahoo.com)



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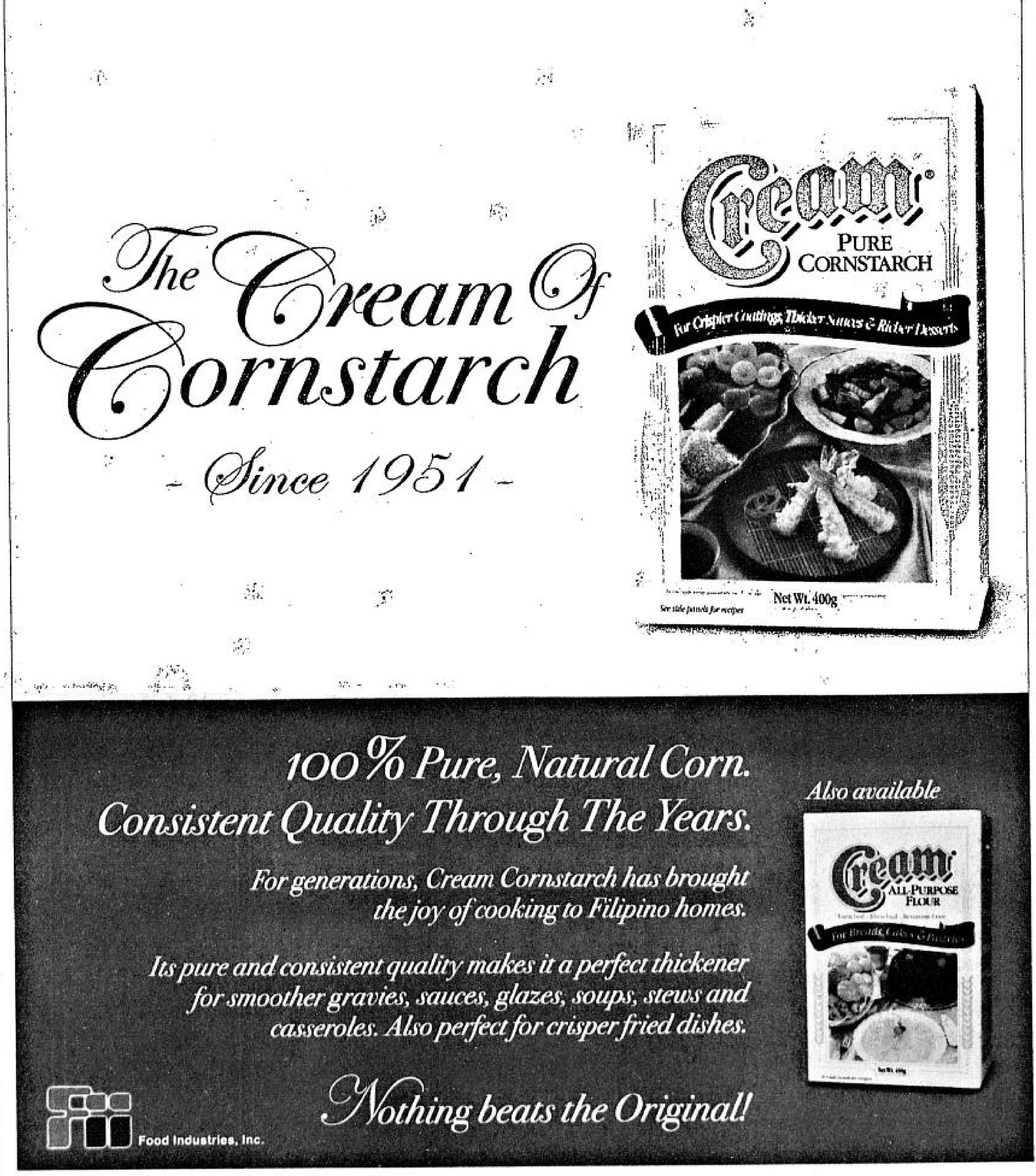

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Super 3

'When did reality become TV? Whatever happened to sitcoms, game shows? And when did Ozzy become an actor? Please make this stop, stop, stop'
–Bowling for Soup, '1985'

MILD-MANNERED citizen turned money-hungry manimal

Dot common

*"When did reality become TV? Whatever happened to sitcoms, game shows? And when did Ozzy become an actor? Please make this stop, stop, stop." –**Bowling for Soup, "1985"***

FROM being a means for computers to share scientific and military info in the '60s to a one-stop shop for vintage Rochas and unsolicited advice in the '00s, the Internet has definitely taken the global economy toward various peaks and pitfalls. It has, in fact, become a modern-day French Revolution, one that has made life more democratic for some but even more nerve-racking for others. Like all forms of digital technology that came before it, the Internet has changed the marketplace forever by rapidly increasing the power and magnitude of ordinary schmoes to create products and services—crappy or otherwise—and sell them online. *Zzzzzz.* Okay, for all of you with ADHD, this is the Cliff's Notes version: the Internet has produced a more accessible and commercial way of life for the masses. Or, following the historical slant of this argument, Marie Antoinette faints at long last.

Age against the machine

Gino de la Paz

In the realm of popular entertainment, reality television was a likely offshoot—a bastard byproduct, if you will—of the so-called Internet revolution. In an interview with CNN's Garrick Utley in 2000, Columbia University business professor Bernd Schmitt said, "What is happening is that a human desire that has always been there is now put to the marketplace and is becoming commercialized. Customers are enjoying being part of that commercial experience on a global basis." Translation: From Greenland to Ghana, everyone is getting hip to TV whoredom!

Viewers used to simply want to be part of the lives of a few people in a house, on TV, and online. To illustrate this, TV land had only four reality shows in the summer of 2000. Now, it seems, the general public doesn't mind selling its soul; the number of reality series has ballooned to more than 40 in the United States alone. With shows ranging from "Amish in the City" to "The Benefactor," the quest for fame and a small fortune has turned a majority of the world's mild-mannered citizens into money-hungry manimals in as little as four years. If reality television is the Zeitgeist for contemporary community living, has the price of fame reached an all-time low? Given that, is anonymity now more desirable than celebrity?

Lack of connoisseurship

The Internet has the ability to empower any random individual and it has bequeathed that same can-do spirit to its evil spawn, reality television. In the few times that I will care to quote her, Anna Wintour observes, "Reality television has made it possible for practically anyone to capture mass attention overnight."

The first drawback to this new kind of people power is the triumph of form over substance. Here's a preview: "Hey you. Yes, you! Look at me. I'm so hot, I can look like a rock star! Or a VJ! Or a model! Oh, did I mention I'll eat donkey poo, catch gonorrhea or sell my left kidney—*anything*— just to be a celebrity?!" Yup. That's exactly what we're looking at right now—a whole generation of great-looking, fast-talking, media-savvy kids who look like they could be rock stars, VJs or models, but are sadly none of the above. Talk about posing.

What's so wrong with mochi snacks passing themselves off as diamond necklaces? "It's about presentation and everyone wanting to be models," gripes Italian-Canadian director Floria Sigismondi, the woman responsible for Sigur Ros' and Marilyn Man-

DOT COMMON E4

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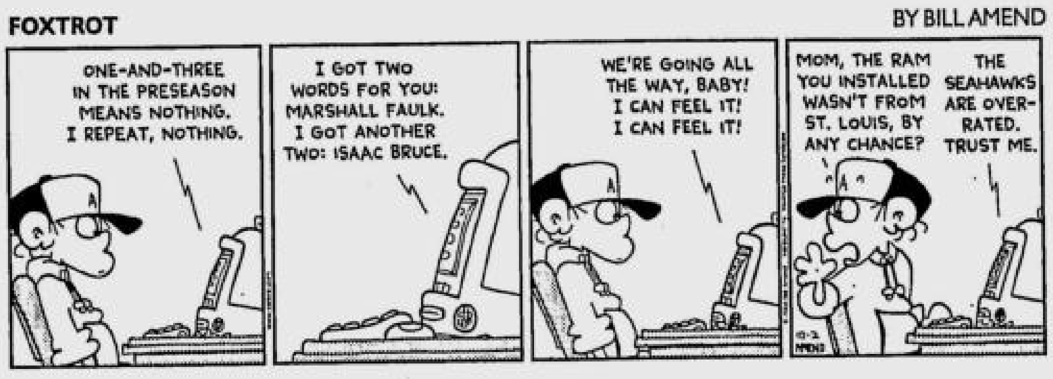
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2239, Series of 2004

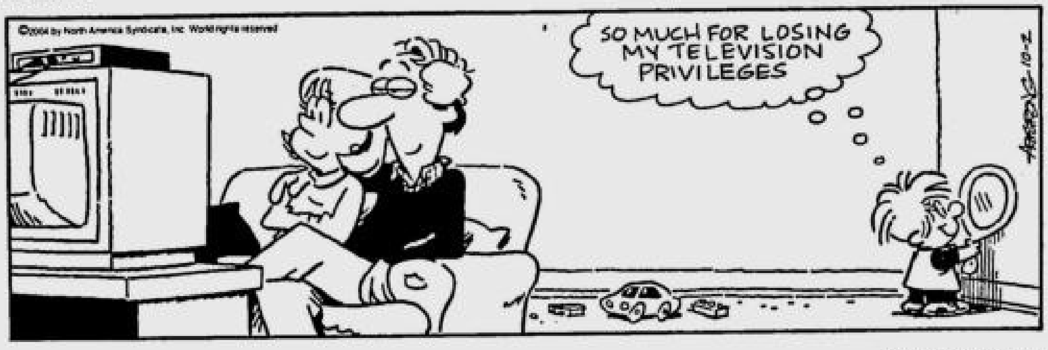
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


ONE-AND-THREE IN THE PRESEASON MEANS NOTHING. I REPEAT, NOTHING.
I GOT TWO WORDS FOR YOU: MARSHALL FAULK. I GOT ANOTHER TWO: ISAAC BRUCE.
WE'RE GOING ALL THE WAY, BABY! I CAN FEEL IT! I CAN FEEL IT!
MOM, THE RAM YOU INSTALLED WASN'T FROM ST. LOUIS, BY ANY CHANCE?
THE SEAHAWKS ARE OVER-RATED. TRUST ME.

MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG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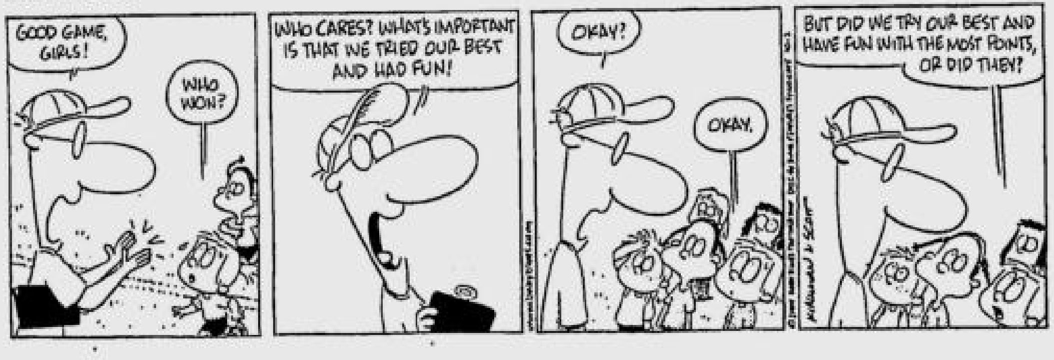
SO MUCH FOR LOSING MY TELEVISION PRIVILEGES

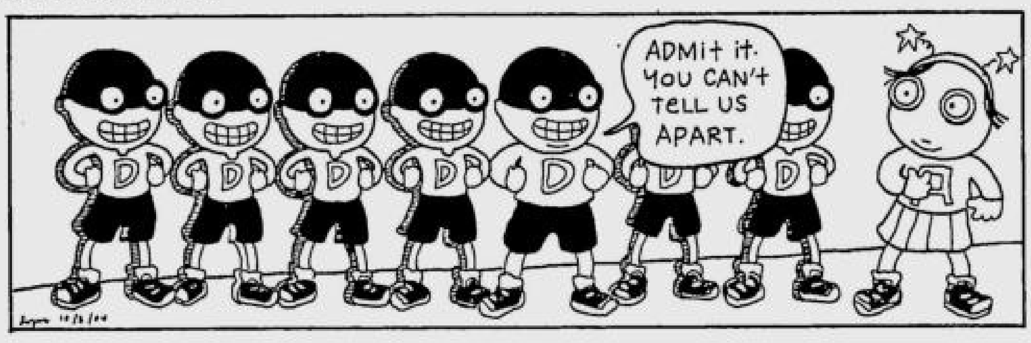
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


GOOD GAME, GIRLS!
WHO WON?
WHO CARES? WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS THAT WE TRIED OUR BEST AND HAD FUN!
OKAY?
OKAY.
BUT DID WE TRY OUR BEST AND HAVE FUN WITH THE MOST POINTS, OR DID THEY?

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


ADMit it. YOU CAN'T TELL US APART.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have an appreciation for the relationship of things: color to color, texture to texture, word to word and person to person. This makes you an excellent critic, arbitrator and judge. People like you because you're witty, charming and attractive. Let go of things this year to make way for new things to enter your life.

Birthdate of: Mohandas Gandhi, nonviolent reformer; Kelly Ripa, actress; Stino. musician/actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You have so much to learn about yourself from your closest relationships and partnerships now. Take what is offered to you. It won't always come to you easily.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Never forget that the year ahead offers you the greatest opportunity you've had for more than a decade to improve your job. What does this mean? Make hay while the sun shines!

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Your love life and all kinds of exciting, romantic flirtations will be ever so promising this year. Vacations and fun getaways are also on the menu. Get ready to party!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Everything having to do with real estate, family business, your domestic life and your home and family will improve enormously this year. You have much to be grateful for.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Short trips, increased reading and writing, plus conversations with neighbors make this an upbeat, memorable year. A big plus for you in the year ahead is that your frame of mind will remain optimistic!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): It definitely looks like more money is coming your way this year. And by extension, you're spending more as well! Who is surprised?

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Jupiter is now in your sign. It hasn't been here for 12 years. Jupiter represents luck, good fortune, expansion and joy. Expect a lot more of this! Yay!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Privately, you're becoming more spiritual and more in tune with your inner world. This doesn't have to be anything fancy-schmancy. It just means that you have a better idea of what makes you happy.

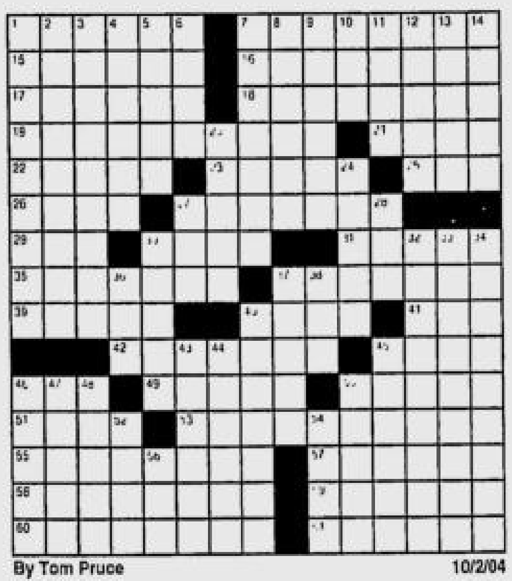
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Your popularity rating really increases this year. Groups, clubs, organizations and your friends all want to see your face. (Lucky you.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Your career has never looked better! You believe that destiny has a special place marked just for you. This is the year to make a name for yourself. Go for broke!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): All kinds of educational and travel opportunities come your way this year. Please grab some of them. Don't let these opportunities pass you by.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You definitely benefit from the wealth of others this year. Partners will learn more. You can expect extended credit, reduced debt, inheritances and gifts to come your way. (Sweet.)

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Tom Pruce
Chicago, IL

10/2/04

ACROSS

1 Evaded by cunning
7 Like a book
15 Very much
16 Bookplate
17 Legislative house
18 Vulnerable
19 Demonstrators
21 Clinton alma mater
22 Needle boxes
23 Loathed
25 "One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest" author Kesey
26 Scores on diamonds
27 Indy break
29 Trajectory's shape
30 Hogan and Franklin
31 Packs (down)
35 Becomes more profound
37 Aseptic
39 English designer Clark
40 Apiarist's interest
41 Trevino of golf
42 Happen earlier than
45 Have on
46 Possesses
49 Shoulder warmer
50 Old hat
51 Norwegian patron saint
53 Rampling and Bronte
55 Rebound
57 Bean and Welles
58 Rump
59 Without further ado
60 Captivated
61 Recipients

DOWN

1 Bold outlaw
2 Preludes to operas
3 Accuses formally
4 Free of charge
5 __ Park, CO
6 Mothers of bunnies
7 Prepares leftovers
8 Brings to bear
9 Ready
10 Short swim
11 With skill
12 Fracture
13 Strong cotton thread
14 City on the Ruhr
20 Dilutes
24 __ on (mollycoddles)
27 Writer's implement
28 Pebble Beach standard
30 Stouts and porters
32 Significant event marker
33 "THX 1138" co-star Donald
34 Clairvoyants
36 Apple seed
37 Passover repast
38 Three-way junction
40 Tardy
43 Acid artist
44 Stick
45 Sherlock's buddy
46 Tribe on the move
47 Visitor on Earth
48 Vertebrae bases
50 __ Novo, Benin
52 Give shape to
54 Burden
56 AFL-__

Friday's Puzzle Solved

N	A	T	O	■	B	L	I	P	■	O	F	F	E	R
E	B	A	Y	■	R	A	V	E	■	P	A	U	L	A
W	E	L	L	L	I	K	E	D	■	T	U	L	I	P
T	L	C	■	O	B	E	S	E	■	I	N	L	E	T
■	■	■	E	V	E	S	■	S	H	O	A	L	■	■
M	A	S	K	E	D	■	S	T	A	N	■	E	M	U
I	R	K	E	D	■	P	L	A	N	S	■	N	A	N
S	L	I	D	■	B	O	I	L	S	■	H	G	T	S
T	E	L	■	T	E	S	T	S	■	B	U	T	T	E
Y	S	L	■	H	I	S	S	■	B	A	T	H	E	R
■	■	L	O	R	N	E	■	T	U	G	S	■	■	■
F	R	E	R	E	■	S	A	R	G	E	■	M	U	G
L	E	V	E	E	■	S	T	I	L	L	L	I	F	E
O	N	E	A	L	■	E	T	T	E	■	A	L	O	E
G	O	L	D	S	■	D	Y	E	S	■	B	E	S	S

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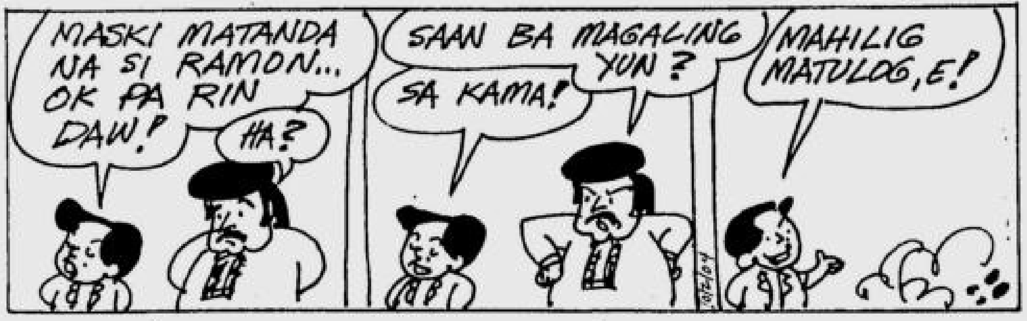
10/2/04

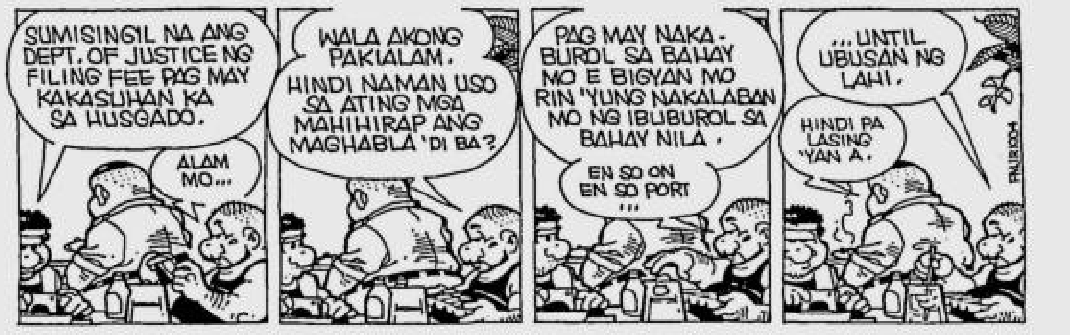
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MASKI MATANDA NA SI RAMON... OK PA RIN DAW!
HA?
SAAN BA MAGALING YUN?
SA KAMA!
MAHILIG MATULOG, E!
10/2/04

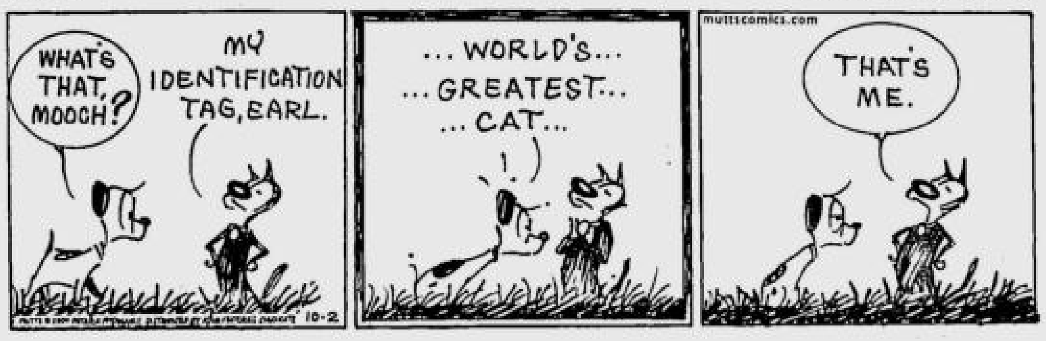
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


SUMISINGIL NA ANG DEPT. OF JUSTICE NG FILING FEE PAG MAY KAKASUHAN KA SA HUSGADO.
ALAM MO...
WALA AKONG PAKIALAM.
HINDI NAMAN USO SA ATING MGA MAHIHIRAP ANG MAGHABLA 'DI BA?
PAG MAY NAKABUROL SA BAHAY MO E BIGYAN MO RIN 'YUNG NAKALABAN MO NG IBUBUROL SA BAHAY NILA.
EN SO ON EN SO PORT ...
...UNTIL UBUSAN NG LAHI.
HINDI PA LASING 'YAN A.

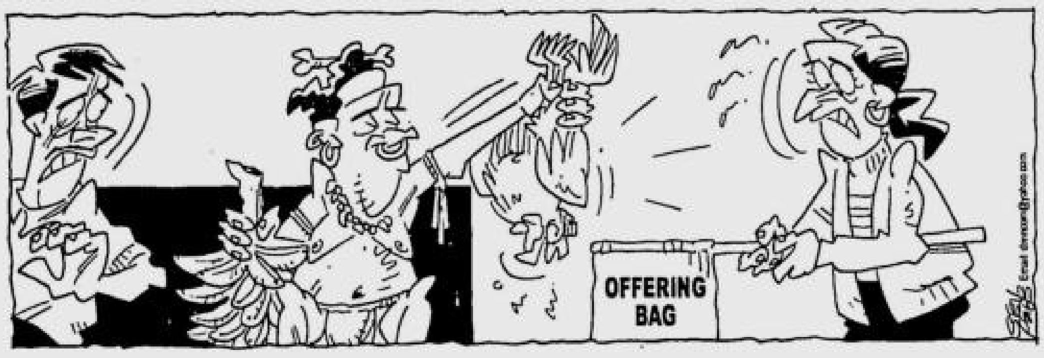
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


WHAT'S THAT, MOOCH?
MY IDENTIFICATION TAG, EARL.
... WORLD'S... ...GREATEST... ...CAT...
muttscomics.com
THAT'S ME.
10-2

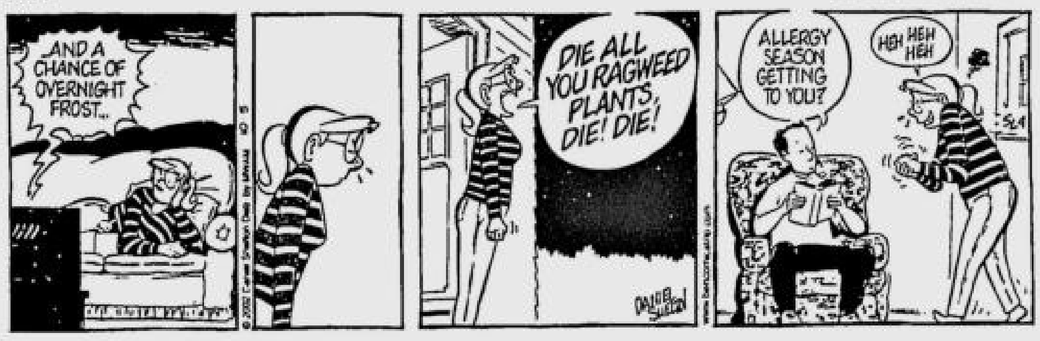
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


OFFERING BAG

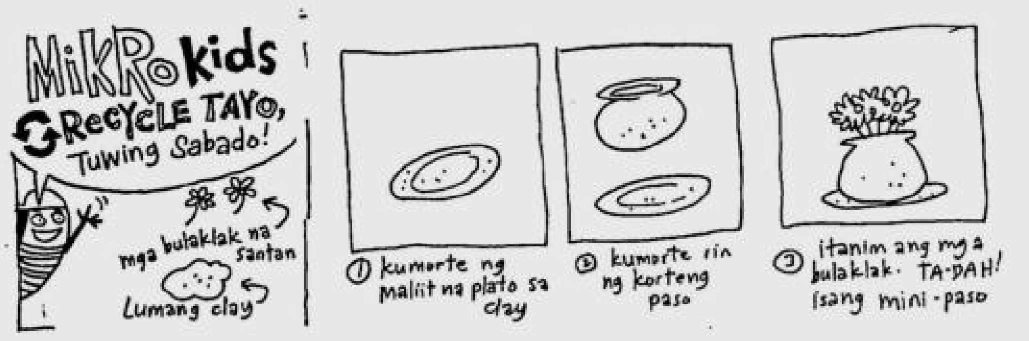
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


...AND A CHANCE OF OVERNIGHT FROST...
DIE ALL YOU RAGWEED PLANTS, DIE! DIE!
ALLERGY SEASON GETTING TO YOU?
HEH HEH HEH

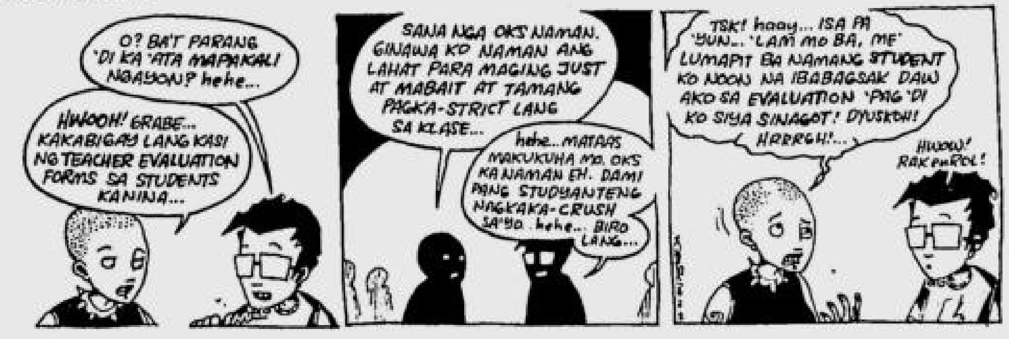
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MiKRo Kids
Recycle Tayo, Tuwing Sabado!
mga bulaklak na santan
Lumang clay
① kumorte ng maliit na plato sa clay
② kumorte rin ng korteng paso
③ itanim ang mga bulaklak. TA-DAH! Isang mini-paso

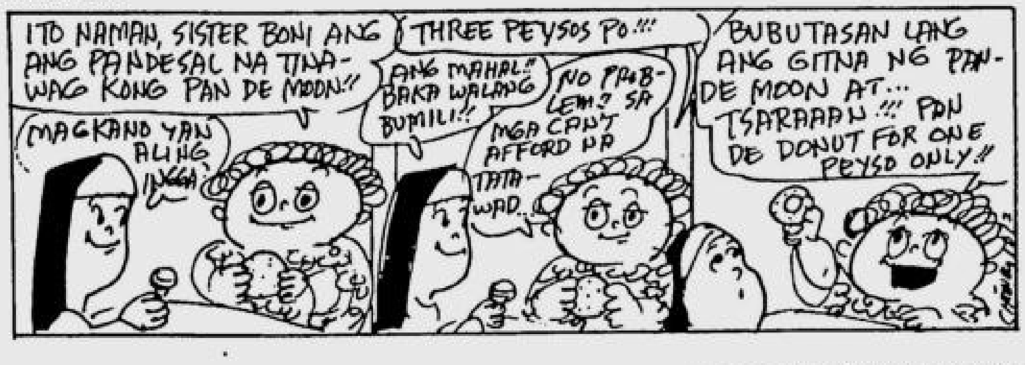
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


O? BA'T PARANG 'DI KA 'ATA MAPAKALI NGAYON? hehe...
HWOOH! GRABE... KAKABIGAY LANG KASI NG TEACHER EVALUATION FORMS SA STUDENTS KANINA...
SANA NGA OKS NAMAN. GINAWA KO NAMAN ANG LAHAT PARA MAGING JUST AT MABAIT AT TAMANG PAGKA-STRICT LANG SA KLASE...
hehe... MATAAS MAKUKUHA MO. OKS KA NAMAN EH. DAMI PANG STUDYANTENG NAGKAKA-CRUSH SA'YO. hehe... BIRO LANG...
TSK! hooy... ISA PA 'YUN... 'LAM mo BA, ME' LUMAPIT BA NAMANG STUDENT KO NOON NA IBABAGSAK DAW AKO SA EVALUATION 'PAG 'DI KO SIYA SINAGOT! DYUSKOH! HRRRGH!...
HWOW! RAKenROL!

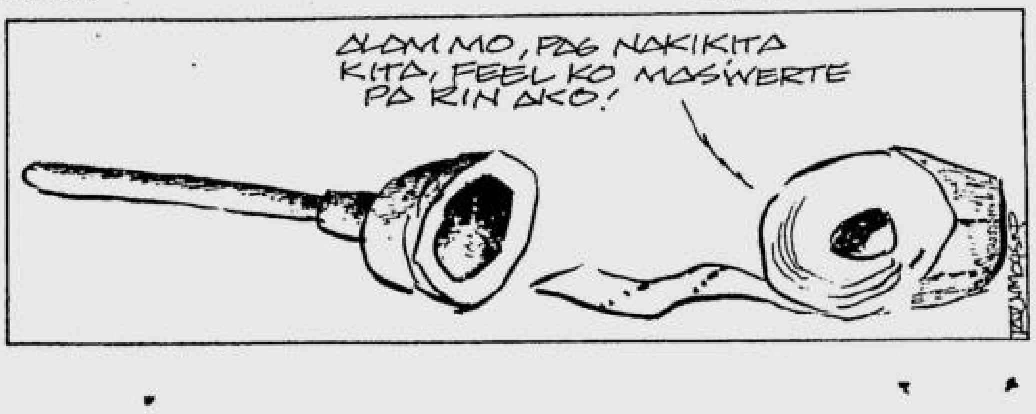
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MAGKANO YAN ALING NGA?
ITO NAMAN, SISTER BONI ANG ANG PANDESAL NA TINAWAG KONG PAN DE MOON!!
THREE PEYSOS PO!!!
ANG MAHAL!! BAKA WALANG BUMILI!!
NO PROBLEM? SA MGA CAN'T AFFORD NA TATAWAD...
BUBUTASAN LANG ANG GITNA NG PAN-DE MOON AT... TSARAAAN!!! PAN DE DONUT FOR ONE PEYSO ONLY!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


ALAM MO, PAG NAKIKITA KITA, FEEL KO MASWERTE PA RIN AKO!

WHERE'S YOUR HED AT? Hed Kandi's DJ Andy Norman

Because we gotta!

Lemon-aide

Giselle Segovia

FEW CAN claim a feat as outstanding as the kind that Hed Kandi has accomplished in the past half decade. A handful might actually be pushing it—in such a brief period, DJ and A&R Man Mark Doyle carried this lifestyle concept to excellent heights by incorporating a record label, a radio show, international club nights and a distinct graphic style all under the single groovy banner "Hed Kandi." Presently, the brand enjoys benchmark-status among musicians, DJs and clubbers from all over the planet. And it is relentless in its continuous pursuit to grow even more in providing the audience with quality sounds.

Speaking of Hed Kandi's "international club nights," a gig here in Manila would definitely fall into that category. As part of the annual BIG FISH tradition of organizing superior club music parties, Hed Kandi returns to the country with acclaimed DJ Andy Norman. This talented man appears regularly for Hed Kandi at the likes of Pacha, London, and El Divino, Ibiza, headlining Kandi's VIP tent at Godskitchen Global Gathering Gatecrasher One and playing at the Glitter Ball in Miami, to name a few.

Make way for this highly-anticipated p-a-r-t-y. Why? Because we gotta!

Saturday, October 2

The spotlight is trained on NBC Tent tonight as Hed Kandi's DJ Andy Norman dominates the deck with his mixing skills. Gates open at 10, but you should come earlier if you still don't have a ticket. As usual, special privileges await Smart subscribers… hmmm… I'm thinking it might ultimately be cheaper if I switch telecomms altogether! Hmmm…

Sunday, October 3

Hurry up or you might miss the last day for the second emerald year offering of Ballet Philippines, "BP Goes Global." The numbers will include "Aku and Buhay" by acting artistic director Alden Lugnasin, which won at the 9th Concours International de Danse de Paris, France, in 2000; "Chichester Psalms" by Alice Reyes; Rotislav Zakharov's "Gopak;" Redha's "Les Petit Mots d'Amour;" Alvin Tolentino's "Field 1," and Augustus Damian III's "Evacuation," this one on its Philippine premiere. Show schedules are 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. at the CCP Main Theater. Call 832-6011 or 551-1003 for details.

Monday, October 4

You will notice that the week ahead is all about serving good causes. Today, it's an art exhibit and auction at the Manila Peninsula's Rigodon Ballroom for the benefit of Avon's Kiss

BECAUSE/ E4

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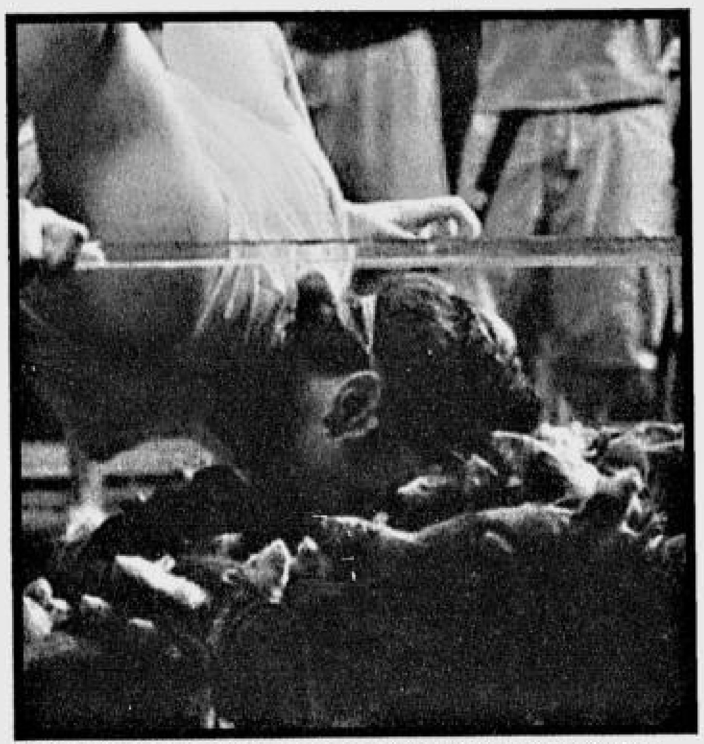

LET'S GET RETARDED! Everyone is getting hip to TV whoredom

Dot common

From page E1

son's best videos ever. She was talking about music videos but one could also repurpose her hang-up to sum up the current lack of connoisseurship among the youth today. See, there used to be a time when people who looked like *fashionistas* were, in truth, *fashionistas*, who were able to back it all up with the required experience, information and designer wardrobes. These days, though, you'd be hard-pressed to find the real deal despite the wave of authenticity that everyone seems to be riding on. You have best-dressed people who wear Mango(!), VJs with poor-to-average taste in music and, worst of all, attractive teens and twentysomethings who don't sound anything like they look. It's tough.

What you 'see'

The next side effect of reality TV's evened-out playing field is that we can no longer *not* judge a book by its cover. In heaven, there would be a world of reasons why that statement is wrong. But in our upside-down pop culture universe, it makes perfect sense. "I read it on the Internet and I saw it on TV, so it must be true," you assume. Who can blame you? With its assurance of life's situations at their "rawest" and "most unrehearsed," reality TV is encouraging us to stop at the surface because backstage has now moved to the forefront. In short, the whole shebang is now on display, leaving close to nothing for the imagination. (Planet Earth seems to be shouting from the rooftops, "This is *moi*!" or whatever to that effect, not knowing that "what you see is what you get" can also be code for "best foot forward." Think about it.) Everyone seems to be so extroverted these days, to the point of being defensive about earnestness and honesty. Still, if you think about it, how "real" can one get with cameras everywhere and/or the promise of celebrity hanging in the balance?

The cheapening of fame

Last and most significant, by putting mediocre individuals on the prime time pedestal, reality TV has tarnished and perverted the entire concept of fame. "In an age of reality TV and Internet self-exposure, mass celebrity has become downright uncool. Niche renown is chic; notoriety is not," Vogue's Sally Singer writes about the differences between the new crop of catwalk idols and the Old Testament supermodels. I couldn't agree more.

Call me a sarcastic, anti-populist prick, but I believe in appropriate levels of conspicuousness, even for these "celebrities." Vapid celebu-nots embroiling themselves in sex tape scandals, cheesy television personalities announcing the infected state of their vaginas, and the like are guilty pleasures that must never become facts of everyday life. Paraphrasing myself from a previous article, that is just so B-list. I repeat, B-list.

Dot uncommon

As a card-carrying member of the Baby Boomlet, I find it hard to imagine life before the Internet. When I manage to do so, all I see are stills from a really bad karaoke video: sunbathing grannies with baby backpacks, high-waisted models wearing lots and lots of shoulder pads and David Hasselhoff looking aggressively vulgar in a pair of red Speedos. Ah, the primitive past. Thank God for ch-ch-changes, as David Bowie stuttered.

Nonetheless, there is a part of me that hankers for the good old days when technology meant a Speak-N-Spell. After all; the notion of celebrity and fame then was less complicated compared to how it is now; fact and fiction were completely polarized and much easier to distinguish. Besides that, the only thing that came close to reality programming back in the day was the evening news and that was meant to inform a viewer, not add to his frustration.

By using the you-zig-I-zag mentality of the intellectually trendy, I think it would be logical that the opposite of reality TV and all its trappings will become the next big thing. Learning from our more-mild-than-wild, Internet-free past, this is what I have to offer: If you don't want to be part of the dot common herd, hang on to your privacy. Contrary to the dictates of the times, anonymity is indeed the new popularity.

Bean in love?
coffee break
from bean to brew

Ayala Center together with the National Coffee Development Board celebrate coffee month from October 4–17, 2004. Coffee lovers, you better be on our grounds when this biggest coffee event unfolds.

OPENING NIGHT: 6pm, Monday, 4 October, Homezone, Glorietta 4 (by invitation).

COFFEE BAR: Mall hours, 4-17 October, Glorietta 4

BANDS TO BLEND WITH: 6:30pm, Wednesdays and Fridays, 6, 8, 13, 15 October, Coffee Bar Area, Glorietta 4: Boyet Vasquez 6 and 15 October • Da' Capo 8 and 13 October.

COFFEE 101 SEMINAR: 2-5pm, Thursday, 14 October, 4th Floor, JV del Rosario Room, AIM Conference Center, Legaspi Village, Makati City.

SUSTAINABLE COFFEE AND VEGETABLE FARMING SEMINAR: 16 and 23 October, Saturday, 9am-6pm, Tarawoods Training Center, Barangay Natatas, Tanauan, Batangas

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From page E3

Goodbye to Breast Cancer (KGBC) Campaign. "Uncovering Life" will feature works of top women artists Ivi Avellana-Cosio, Impy Pilapil, Susan Fetalvero-Roces and many others.

Tuesday, October 5

Hello? V-Bar tonight yet again! On its way to becoming the most popular weeknight club party, V-Bar on Tuesdays is a never-fail, never-pale affair! Hip-hop music for men and women who want to shake their booty (and boy, do they do just that!)—come and see. Ten-ish is a little early, but if you want to get a table, it won't hurt. Try *not* to call in sick the next day, though.

Wednesday, October 6

Few people probably noticed him as the best-bud-hallucination of Russell Crowe in "A Beautiful Mind," but Paul Bettany surely caught the attention of Jennifer Connelly (they are together now, sorry Russell). And, with the opening of the romantic flick "Wimbledon," he is obviously taking notice steadily—that of Kirsten Dunst, who plays his leading lady, and the producers. Looks like an entertaining-enough endeavor if you want to watch a light one. In theaters starting today.

Thursday, October 7

If only to appreciate the political, judicial, artistic and industrial craftsmen who have helped mold our country in one way or another, check out the Newsmakers' Auction. Donors include former presidents Corazon Aquino and Fidel Ramos; artist Anita Magsaysay-Ho; Don Jaime Zobel de Ayala; Education Secretary Florencio Abad, and Chief Justice Hilario Davide. Proceeds will go to the Independent Journalism Fund, which supports the publication Newsbreak. For more inquiries, please call 687-5528 or 687-5524.

Friday, October 8

The very intriguing advertisement of "Leanna," a play about language, power and sex, is compelling. Bart Guingona directs and stars in it opposite the lovely Lara Fabregas, whose face is emblazoned on the poster. Opening tonight, 8 p.m., at Stageworx, 5th level, Edsa Shangri-La Mall. Call Ticketworld, 891-9999.

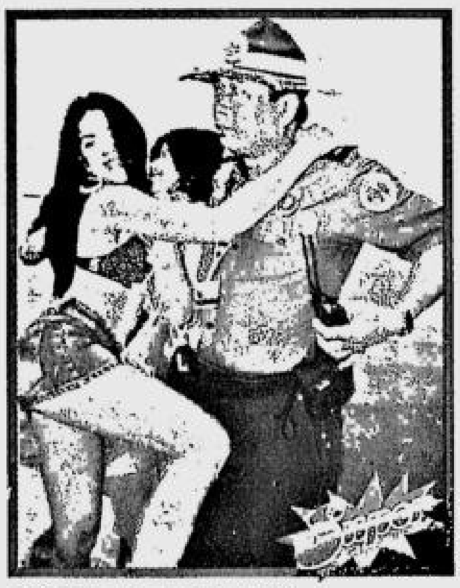
The Word for the Bored:

"How can anyone not like Britney Spears?!"

–Lindsay Lohan

SATURD Super! 4

Oh caption, my caption!



ERIK ARAZAS

CSI: Crime Scene Infatuation
SENDER: Joey Montalvo, Makati

By Gino de la Paz and Tals Diaz

CONGRATULATIONS, *pare*! Aside from winning some Super! surprises, Joey, you now have the chance—no, the privilege—nay, the HONOR—of reporting to the Super! office at ungoldly hours to help us caption all the photos in our section. Such great wit must not go unrewarded, don't you think? Just kidding... except for the bit where you won stuff. To claim your prize call the INQUIRER Marketing Department at 8978808 and look for Hazel or Ching.

Of course, we just couldn't leave out the runners-up, who also kept us in stitches. Good work guys!

Nicolas Gabriel V. Abrenilla

"Is that your *batuta* in your pocket or are you just happy to see me?"

Marcus Gonzalez

"When SHAMPOOS attack"

Bisqui Vito

"D'Cop and D'Cup"

Runny Meadow

(Sung to the tune of "Bulaklak" by the Viva Hot Babes)

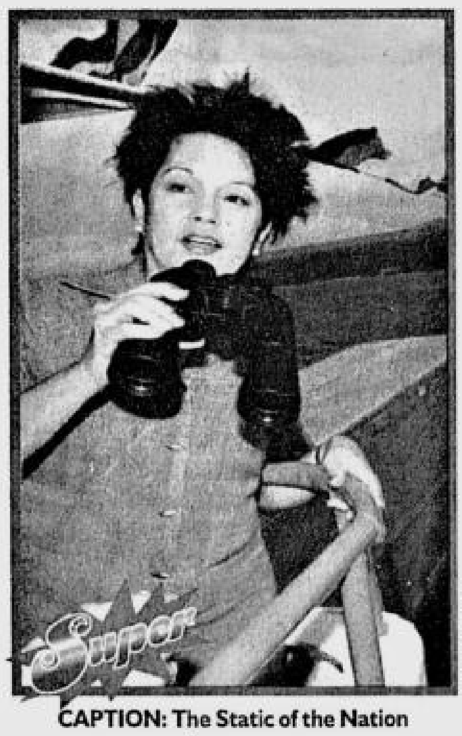
"*...Bumuka ang Bulaklak, nag-nakaw eksena, na-imbiyerna si Parak, ANG SAYA-SAYAH!...*"

Korina Ada Tanyu

"Shake, body body shampoo!"

Gio Jose Villaespin

"Two words: POLICE ESCORTS"



VAL HANDUMON

CAPTION: The Static of the Nation

This Week's Challenge

AS COLUMNISTS for this newspaper, we like to start our days by reading about the big, bad world outside Super! And surprise, surprise! Last Thursday's front page had a particularly—how do we put this?—hair-raising photo.

The cover star was none other than our beloved President GMA drumming up support for local tourism. Though we respect her office, our wicked little minds just couldn't help it. Yes, this snapshot is just begging for your caption!

Yeah, sure. We normally like living on the edge, pissing off tons of folks and stuff, but this week, our contest comes with a caveat. Since the woman in the photo is, after all, the PRESIDENT of OUR COUNTRY, any blow too low to Tita Glo will make her push a button and before you know it, you will burst into flames, wondering if it was the heat in Manila or the Bicol express you had for lunch that did you in. Super! should know. Does anyone remember a columnist named Lex? Anyone? Where are you, Lex? We miss you! But we digress. Big time. (Insert awkward silence here.)

We are stoked that lots of you take time out to write in. So what are you stalling for? Send your entries to super@inquirer.com.ph. Please, not to the Malacañang inbox. Later!

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*For treatment worth P275.00 w/in 30 days from last visit

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WHOLE BODY PEELING [illegible] P 4,500.00 ONLY

WHOLE BODY POWER BLEACH For Men & Women P 499.95 ONLY

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X MARKS. Xeng Zulueta of Shu Uemura

MTV BALLS. Asi Taulava, Don Allado and Jimmy Alapag

MTV'S AYOS! couple Francis and Mary Ann Lumen

JAY R is designed for love

BEST IN BLING. Tessa Prieto-Valdes in Rajo Laurel

STYLIST of the century Jenni Epperson in Puey Quiñones

RED CARPET HOSTS. Tim Yap in Rajo Laurel and Patty Laurel in Kate Torralba

IT GIRL TRIO. Kat Tantoco, Celine Lopez and Wendy Puyat-Hotung

BUSTED!

By Giselle Segovia

AT THE recent first ever MTV Style Awards, the honorees received a susceptible "bust" as the actual trophy symbolizing the recognition bestowed upon them by of course, MTV and Manila's fashion followers. It was a fitting badge for the sparkled list who. not only walked down the red carpet but continued on (after their names were called) to grace the stage. The "disco-luxe" themed event threw brownie points and then some to the purveyors of standout style in fashion, music, movies, television, business, sports, and politics via an extravagant show directed by, what do you know, another fashion minion Robby Carmona of Saga Events.

The glittering affair, presented by LG Audio, overflowed with a vibrant mix of the most stylish people (hmm, thanks MTV!). Presenters included Sen. Mar Roxas, Albert Martinez, Iza Calzado, Bamboo, Vince Hizon, First Quadrant CEO Doyee Tactacan-Tumpalan, Pinky Webb, Marc Nelson, Denise Laurel and Mariel Rodriguez of MTV's Rouge, Rissa Samson, Raya Mananquil, Tim Yap, Maverick & Ariel.

Eddie Gil was all over the place but Pepsi endorser Jericho Rosales kept him still at the podium. Other presenters were Lalaine of The Lizzie Maguire Show, Jenni Epperson, Geneva Cruz, Louie Ysmael, Rajo Laurel, Zsa Zsa Padilla, Angel Jacob, Celine Lopez, Jon Hall, Karl Roy, Kitchie Nadal, Kiko Escora, Chechel Joson, Michael Salientes, Eli Buendia, Juan Sarte III, Joanne Quintas-Primero, Angel Aquino, G Tongi, PBA Gameboys Rob Duat, Jimmy Alapag, Don Allado, Asi Taulava and Tessa-Prieto Valdes.

Awards were given out in eight people's choice and 12 jury categories. The MTV Style Council—an exclusive committee of top fashion editors, journalists, stylists, designers, photographers, and models assisted by MTV —voted on the jury awards. Special awards were given by LG Audio and Listerine PocketPaks.

One of the highlights of the proceedings was the special Fearless Fashion award given to standout trendsetters Tessa Prieto-Valdes and our own superman, Tim Yap.

The night wouldn't have been branded by MTV without outstanding musical numbers. Radioactive Sago Project and Bamboo performed their hit songs, "Astro" and "Mr. Clay," respectively. The Makiling Ensemble played a lively instrumental number to provide an ethnic backdrop to Rajo Laurel's collection. Orange and Lemons performed their take on the Duran Duran song "Girls on Film" for Patrice Ramos-Diaz's collection.

For Jojie Lloren's collection, Artstrong, together with The Makiling Ensemble and opera singer Thea Perez, did "Prince Igor." For Ignacio Loyola's collection, Goth group, The Late Isabel performed a haunting version of Abba's "Dancing Queen." Sandwich did the classic "Sweet Child of Mine" and their rocking single "Two Trick Pony" during the Revolutionary Designer of the Year nominees' showcase. The Randy Ortiz collection was presented together with a performance of "As," by Jay R and Noisy Neighbors. The night ended with a stellar performance of "Like a Prayer" by newcomer Rebekah, together with the Montserrat Singers.

Catch the disco-luxe glitz, glamor and some fashion faux pas, (plus a few entertaining blunders) when the television coverage airs on MTV Philippines, Saturday, Oct. 16 at 3 p.m. Watch more of it on the MTV Style Awards Red Carpet Special on Monday, Oct. 11, 7 p.m., with replays on Wednesday, Oct. 13, 8:30 p.m., and Sunday, Oct. 17, 9:30 p.m.

Now that we know people are actually paying attention to what we wear,that definitely tells us to do so too.

Winners' list

People's choice awardees:

Favorite Stylish Leading Lady: **Claudine Barretto**
Favorite Stylish Leading Man: **Aga Muhlach**
Favorite Stylish Power Player—Female: **Loren Legarda**
Favorite Stylish Power Player—Male: **Mar Roxas**
Most Influential International Artist: **Britney Spears**
Favorite Stylish Dynamic Duo: **Phoemela Baranda and Paolo Bediones**
Favorite MTV Divastyle: **Barbie Almalbis**
Favorite MTV Rockstyle: **Bamboo Mañalac**

Winners of the jury awards:

Technical Award for Makeup Artist of the Year: **Juan Sarte III**
Technical Award for Stylist of the Year: **Jenni Epperson**
Best in Suit: **Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II**
Red Carpet Style: **Tina Maristela-Ocampo**
Bachelor Style: **Borgy Manotoc**
It Girl Style: **Celine Lopez**
Fashion Photographer of the Year: **Xander Angeles**
Revolutionary Designer of the Year: **Ivarluski Aseron**
Most Stylish Music Video: **"Astro" by Radioactive Sago Project**
Male Fashion Model of the Year: **Borgy Manotoc**
Female Fashion Model of the Year: **Isabel Roces**
Designer of the Year: **Jojie Lloren**

Winners of the special awards:

Fearless Fashion Award: **Tessa Prieto-Valdes and Tim Yap**
Style to Die For (presented by LG Audio): **Kat Tantoco and Marc Nelson**
Best in Bling (presented by the New Coolmint Listerine PocketPaks): **Tessa Prieto-Valdes**

FEARLESS FASHION AWARDEES. Tim Yap in Puey Quiñones and Tessa Prieto-Valdes

DIVA STYLESETTER Zsa Zsa Padilla

FASHION PLATES. Kat Torralba and JM Rodriguez

OUT THERE. Avi Siwa and Ornussa Cadness at the after party at Bellissima

MODEL OF THE YEAR. Isabel Roces in Rhett Eala with boyfriend Miggy Romero

SUPER'S STYLE WINNERS. Pepsi boy Echo Rosales and MTV superstar Sarah Meier

STYLE SCIENTISTS. Maverick and Ariel

REVOLUTIONARY designer Ivarluski Aseron

STYLE: Angel Aquino

E FOR EFFORT for Eddie Gil

FAB chick Raya Mananquil

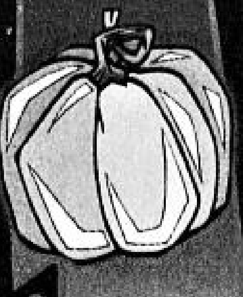
BEST suited Joel Tantoco

MTV VJ slash rockstar Marc Abaya

SUPERMODEL Rissa Samson sizzles

L'OREAL LASS. Tess Dragon's sassy style

No Tricks, Just Bagfuls Of **BIG-SAVING-TREATS**

PRE-HALLWEEN SALE

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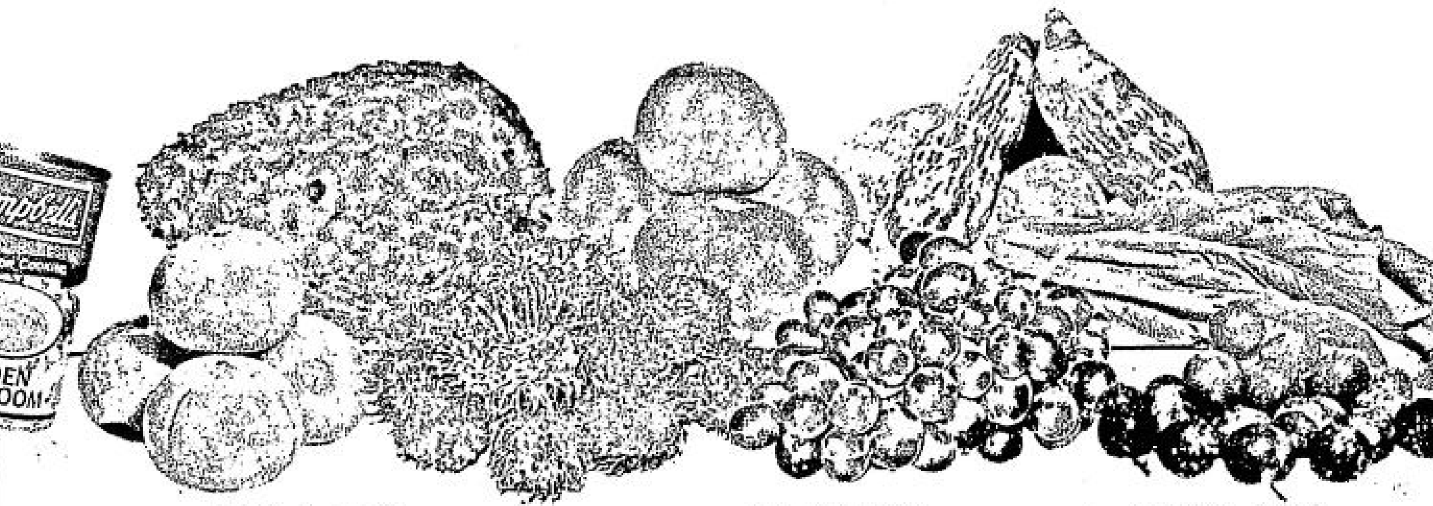

Ponkan ₱84.00/kg • X'mas Rose Grapes ₱ 99.00/kg • Guyabano ₱15.75/kg
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DON PEDRO
BRANDY

Don Pedro
Gran Reserva Brandy
750ml ₱162.00/bot
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Milo
Chocolate Drink Refill 1kg P144.70/bag
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Tender Juicy hotdog
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1kg P148.30/bag
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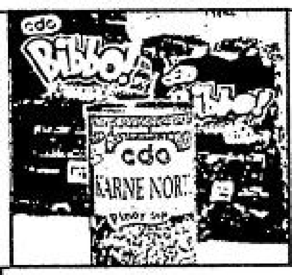
cdo
Bibbo
cdo
KARNE NORTE

CDO
Karne Norte 150g P17.40/can
Bibbo
Hotdog Regular 1kg P133.90/bag
Cocktail 1kg P137.75/bag

Mama Sita's
Mama Sita's
LABUYO

Mama Sita's
Barbeque Marinade 23oz P58.80/bot
Oyster Sauce 27oz P78.40/bot
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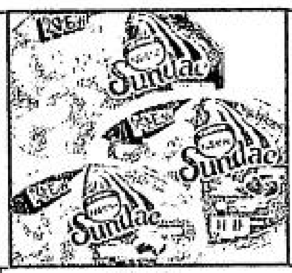
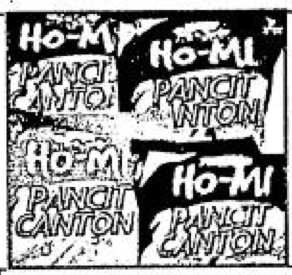

Sundae
Sundae
Sundae

Nestle
Sundae Choco Fudge,
Mocha Caramel, Strawberry
850ml P105.50/tub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Ho-Mi
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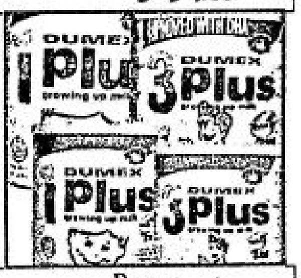
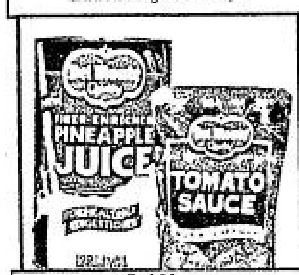

DUMEX
1 Plus
3 Plus
DUMEX
1 Plus
3 Plus

Dumex
1 Plus Vanilla, 3 Plus Vanilla
800g P299.60/can
1.6kg P582.50/can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Fiber Enriched Pine Juice 1.38L
P42.95/can
Tomato Sauce SUP 200g
P12.45/pouch

Bright
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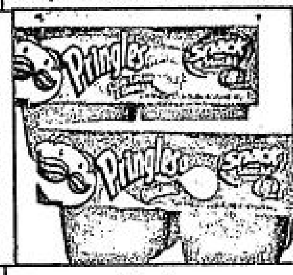
Enervon
Bright 1.5kg P542.25/can
1kg P366.70/can Prime Milk
1kg P415.10/can Choco
1kg P434.80/can

Tang
Tang
FAT REDUCED
CALCIUM ENRICHED
DAIRY milk

Real
Fresh Milk Reduced Fat 1L P45.90/bot
Tang
Orange Powder 5.7L P125.50/can
8.55L P175.50/can 19L P320.50/can


Pringles
Pringles

Pringles
Snack Pack Original, Pizza-licious,
Sour Cream & Onion, Red Fat Original
8/23g P159.00/pk

Doritos
Doritos
Doritos
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Doritos
Taco, Nacho Cheesier, Smokin BBQ
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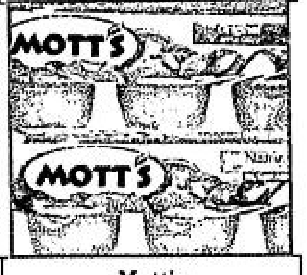
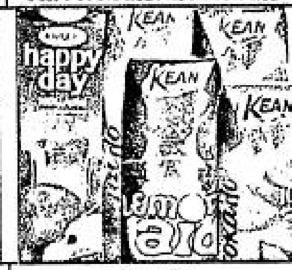

MOTT'S
MOTT'S

Mott's
Apple Sauce Original, Natural
6/680.4g P85.50/pk

Knox
Gelatin
Knox
Gelatine

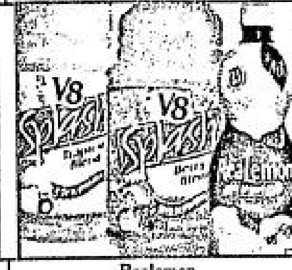
Knox
Unflavored Gelatine
28.4g P55.50/box 226.8g P375.50/box

Albers
Yellow Corn Meal 567g P77.00/box
Good Life
Bread Crumbs 230g P23.50/pk


happy day
KEAN
KEAN
KEAN

Happy Day
Apple Juice 1L P60.50/tetra
Kean
Juice Orange, Apple, Grapefruit
Five Fruits Cocktail, Lemonaid 1L P55.00/tetra

Heinz
Vinegar Red Wine, Garlic Wine,
Taragon, Salad 360ml P95.95/bot
Balsamic Vinegar 360ml P121.20/bot


V8
Splash
V8
Splash

Realemon
Lemon Juice 960ml P125.50/bot
V-8
Splash Tropical Blend, Berry Blend
1.92L P185.50/bot

Molinera
Hazelnut Spread Chocolate, 2 Flavors
220g P67.70/bot 400g P88.85/bot
Jolly
Spread Choco, Duo 113.4g P63.50/bot

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TASMANIAN HERITAGE
TASMANIAN HERITAGE
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Table Margarine 500g P161.50/tub
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Cheese Tasmanian Heritage Stowport
Matured Cheddar, Hartz Peak Gouda,
Lake Echoswiss 200g P166.50/pc

Miller
Honey Orange, Clover 680.4g P228.00/bot
Sunsweet
Pitted Prune 340.2g P81.95/box

S&W
GARBANZO BEANS
BUMBLE BEE
Chunk Light Tuna

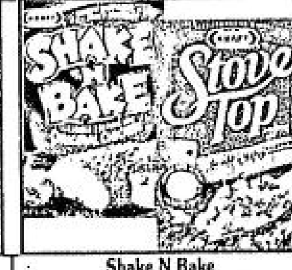
Bumble Bee
Tuna Chunk Lite Water, Oil
170g P48.00/can
S&W
Garbanzos Beans 432.3g P38.50/can

CRISP CHOCO
CHOCO CHIPS

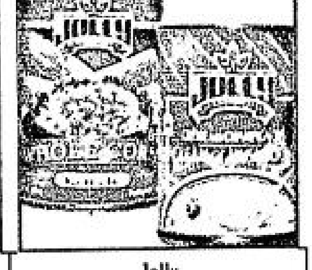
Bourbon
Biscuits Aurora, Choco Coffee,
Choco Chips 161g P61.00/box
Cisco
Choco Crisps 98g P101.00/box

Olive Oil
Olive Oil
Nativa

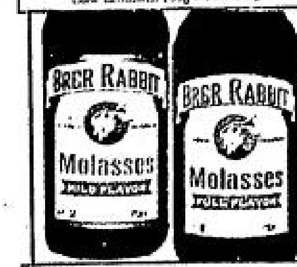
Doña Elena
Extra Virgin Olive Oil 1L P260.50/bot
Pure Olive Oil 1L P250.00/bot
Rauch
Green Tea Lemon 1L P55.50/bot


SHAKE N BAKE
Stove Top

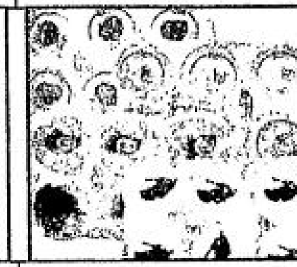
Shake N Bake
Chicken Mix 155.9g P96.00/box
Stove Top Stuffing
Mix Chicken, LS Chicken
170g P96.00/box


JOLLY
JOLLY

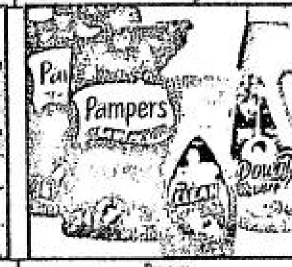
Jolly
Whole Kernel Corn
425g P21.50/can Cream Of Mushroom
297.7g P28.00/can


BRER RABBIT
Molasses
MILD FLAVOR
BRER RABBIT
Molasses
FULL FLAVOR

Brer Rabbit
Molasses Green, Gold
340.2g P101.00/bot 680.4g P191.00/bot



Yame
Pudding Lychee, Mango, Strawberry,
Kiwi 6/80g P45.50/pk


Pampers
Downy

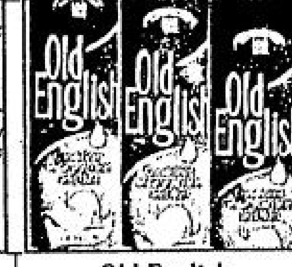
Pampers
Comfort Value Pack Large 36's P291.50/bag
XL 34's P291.50/bag
Downy
Nature Fresh 1L P137.90/bot
Mr. Clean
Dishwashing Fruit, 500ml P51.40/bot

Colgate Total
Colgate Total
Colgate Total
Colgate Total

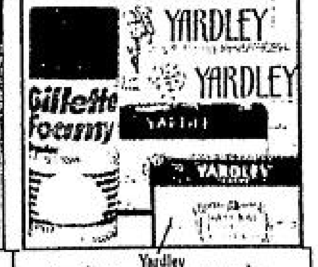
Colgate
Total Toothpaste
160g P60.10/tube
90g P34.75/tube

Tisyu
Tisyu
10
JUMBO
KITCHEN TOWEL
Sanicare

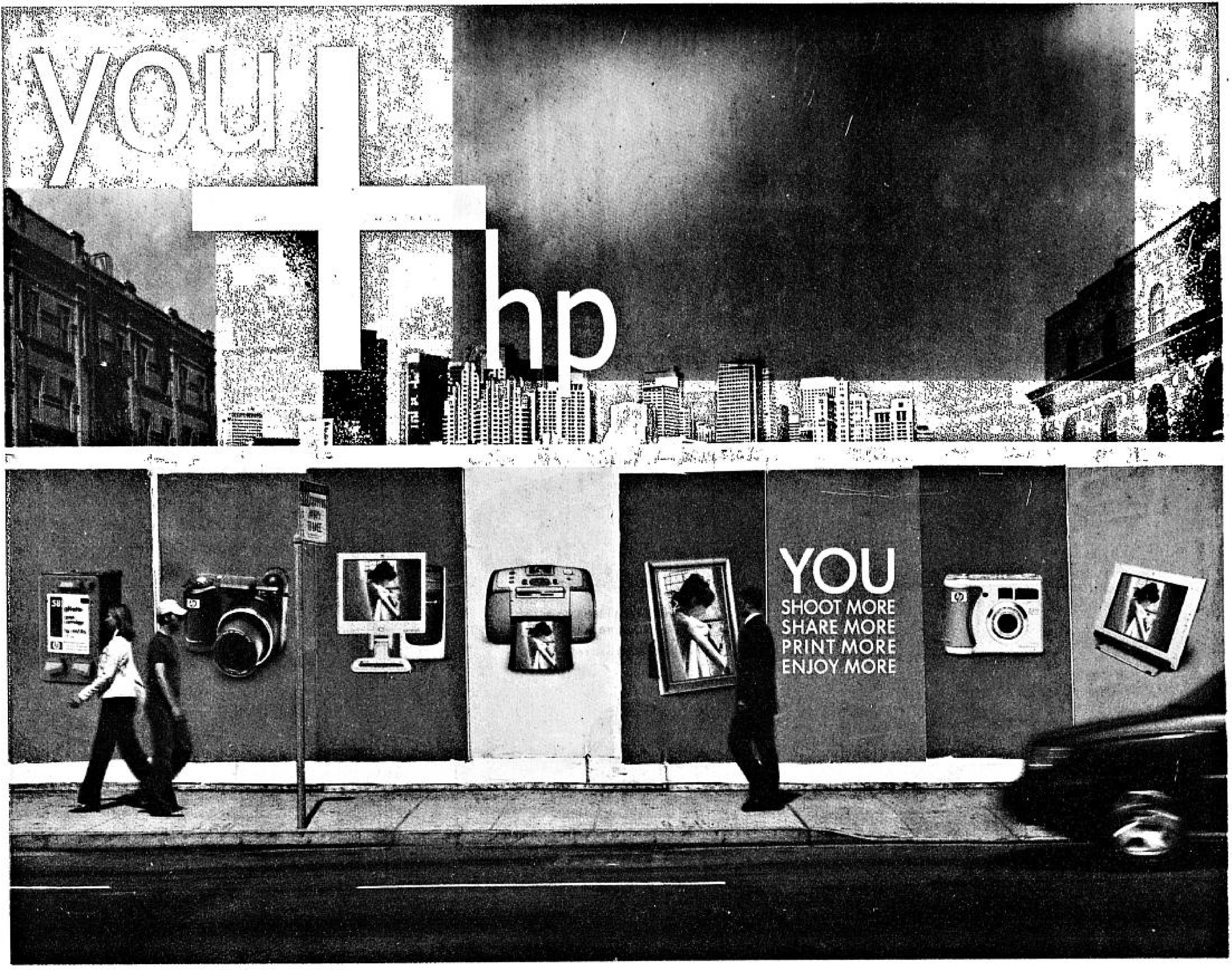
Tisyu
Coreless Compact 10's P36.90/pk
Kitchen Towel All Purpose 4's P102.00/pk
Sanicare
Kitchen Towel TAD Jumbo Twain
2's P83.20/bag All Purpose 2's P54.00/bag


Old English
Old English
Old English

Old English
Furniture Polish Lemon
40.9g P196.00/can


YARDLEY
YARDLEY
Gillette Foamy
YARDLEY

Yardley
Soap Aloe Vera Cucumber, Chamomile,
Oatmeal Almond, English Lavender,
Primrose Evening 120.5g P58.00/cake
Gillette
Foam, Regular [illegible] P46.00



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